THE

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OF

TARIFF AND TRADE NOTICES

AND

MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL INFORMATION.

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I.—BOARD OF TRADE NOTICES.

State of the Skilled Labour Market.

The following memorandum has been prepared for the *Board of Trade Journal* by the Labour Correspondent to the Board of Trade:—

During the month there has been an increase in the number of strikes, and the labour market consequently still remains in a somewhat disturbed condition. A few disputes of long standing have, however, been arranged, and as large numbers of men have returned to work, there appears to be a slight improvement in the condition of some of the skilled trades making reports. This is notably so in the case of the engineering trade, which has benefited largely by the settlement of the unfortunate dispute on the North-East Coast after a duration of 13 weeks. There are still, however, considerable numbers of men in the district who have not yet been employed since the stoppage came to an end.

In Durham the strike of miners still continues with disastrous results, not only to the mining trade, but to all the industries dependent upon the county for their supplies of coal and coke.

The new strikes noted during the month number 65, which is 26 in excess of the number recorded in the month preceding. The numbers affected by these disputes may be estimated at from 60,000 to 70,000, the larger proportion of this figure being affected by the lock-out in the Lancashire cotton trade. Disputes in the building trades are unusually numerous, not less than 20

having occurred therein, of which 8 only affected about 5,000 workmen. The building trade disputes are, in almost every case, for increased wages, shorter hours, or other improvements in the condition of labour. In most of the other trades, however, the disputes are due to causes exactly the reverse of the above, the truth being that the building trades alone are in such a condition as to make a brisk demand for labour.

In all 19 trade unions representing skilled labour have sent in returns to the Board of Trade. They show a total membership of 255,114, and of these 13,856 are out of work, as against 14,446 in the previous month. There is thus a slight improvement in the demand for labour, which is best indicated by a fall in the per-centage of unemployed from 5·7 to 5·4. As has been already explained, however, this improvement is more apparent than real, being entirely caused by the termination of the stoppage in the engineering trades of the Tyne and Wear. Apart from this, several important trades show signs of a falling off, pattern makers, iron founders, and shipbuilders especially being in much less demand than for some years past. The proportion of unemployed one year ago was but 2·69.

The general summaries for the month represent nine trades as "moderate," seven as "bad," and but three as "good."

Inquiries under the Boiler Explosions Act.

Boiler Explosion at Merthyr Tydvil.—A formal investigation was held at Merthyr Tydvil on the 22nd April into the causes and circumstances attending the explosion of a boiler at the Dowlais Iron Works, Dowlais, on or about the 18th day of March last, whereby loss of life ensued.

The boiler was of the Cornish type, and after the explosion the furnace tube was found to have ruptured and collapsed in two places.

The court found that the explosion was due to an inherent defect in one of the plates in the bottom of the furnace tube in the second ring from the front of the boiler; that the defect probably existed in January last, when it was thoroughly examined and repaired, but the fracture was not perceptible either to sight or touch, and the proximity of the fracture to the landing edge rendered it almost impossible to detect by the hammer.

The court considered that a mirror should have been used in examining the bottom of the tube, which was only 7 inches from the bottom of the boiler; that the defect might have been discovered by the application of hydraulic test to sufficient pressure, but no defect was discovered upon the last examination to arouse suspicions in the minds of the persons who made the examination.

The court acquitted the Dowlais Iron Company and their servants of all blame, and they made no order as to costs.

Boiler Explosion at Lower Darwen.—A formal investigation was held at the Town Hall, Blackburn, on the 5th May, into the circumstances attending the explosion of a bone boiler at the Park View Bone Works, Guide, Lower Darwen, on the 1st April, whereby one person was killed and six persons were injured.

The boiler, which was 8 ft. in diameter, was made by a boiler-maker at Church in the year 1879, and although the bottom was unstayed, he admitted that he had constructed it for a working pressure of 10 lbs.

The owner alleged that the boiler-maker had constructed the boiler for a working pressure of 40 to 45 lbs., and that he had told him that it could be worked in safety at this pressure.

The boiler was worked at pressures varying from 10 to 17 lbs., and whilst working at the former pressure it exploded.

The court found that the explosion was owing to the bottom plates of the boiler being too weak to withstand any working pressure, and that the strength of the material was reduced by corrosion and the strain owing to the varying pressures at which the boiler was worked.

That the owner did not take proper measures to ascertain the pressure at which the boiler could be safely worked, but that he relied upon the information in that respect given him by the maker.

The court found that some measure of blame attached to the owner.

They also found that the boiler-maker held himself out as a maker of experience. That if he had any sufficient knowledge upon the subject he would have known that the boiler was unfit to withstand any pressure in excess of that due to the water it would contain.

The loss sustained by the owner was estimated at 500*l.*, and the court made no order against him as to costs.

They ordered the boiler-maker to pay the sum of 15*l.* towards the costs and expenses of the investigation.

Boiler Explosion at Blackburn.—A formal investigation was held at the Town Hall, Blackburn, on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th May into the circumstances attending the explosion of an economiser at the Bridgewater Mills, Blackburn, on the 25th March, whereby one person was killed.

One half of the economiser was erected in 1874 and the other in 1881. Since this time tubes had occasionally burst, but the owner, being unaware of the provisions of the Boiler Explosions Act, 1882, failed to report the bursting of these tubes to the Board of Trade. They were renewed, but no effort appears to have been made to determine the cause of the tubes bursting.

The boilers to which the economiser delivered heated water were guaranteed by the Manchester Steam Users' Association, and the owner endeavoured to prove that this guarantee covered the economiser.

Owing to its construction the economiser was difficult to thoroughly examine, but it was examined by the engineer of the works from time to time.

Some eight months before the explosion the fireman (who was thereby killed) allowed the water to leave the economiser, which consequently became heated. This neglect was not reported to the owners, and though the fireman appears to have entertained some fear as to the safety of the economiser, he never expressed it to them or to anyone in their employment.

The owners contended that the explosion was owing to the overheating of the economiser consequent upon a second act of negligence on the part of the fireman.

The court found that the economiser was not guaranteed by the Manchester Steam Users' Association, and that no reasonable business man could have concluded that it was so guaranteed from the terms of the guarantees furnished by the association in respect of the boiler.

That, notwithstanding the fact that, owing to its construction, a thorough examination of the economiser was difficult, yet this was quite possible.

That the leaving of the blow-off valve open and emptying the economiser some eight months before the explosion did not cause any damage to it.

That the engineer of the mills entirely failed to make a proper examination, and had he examined the lower part of the tubes he must have detected signs of very considerable corrosion.

The court found that the explosion was due to some of the tubes having become so reduced in thickness by external corrosion as to be no longer able to withstand any useful working pressure, and that there was no ground for the theory of overheating.

The court found the engineer to blame; that the owners were to blame as responsible for his neglect, and also for neglecting to provide for regular examinations by competent persons.

An action commenced by the widow of the fireman under the Employers Liability Act was settled by the owners undertaking to pay her 100*l.* In these circumstances the court ordered the owners (two brothers) each to pay the sum of 25*l.* towards the costs and expenses of the investigation.

Inspectors of Weights and Measures.

The following inspectors of weights and measures have during the month of April 1892, passed the examination provided for in the 11th section of the "Weights and Measures Act, 1889:"—

John Bowen, West Ham Borough; William Cassidy, Timothy Creedon, James Coulter, John Deane, Patrick Deignan, James Gallagher, George Gibson (Royal Irish Constabulary), Ireland; John Robert Hayward, Tunbridge Wells Borough; William Higgins (Royal Irish Constabulary), Ireland; Oscar John Kirby,

Batley Borough; John McHugh (Royal Irish Constabulary), Ireland; William George Morant, Reigate Borough; James Owens, Michael Slattery, Patrick Tuohy (Royal Irish Constabulary), Ireland.

Sea Fisheries Regulation Act, 1888.

The following is a copy of the order by the Board of Trade for the creation of the Devon sea fisheries district, which has been laid before Parliament, and has now come into effect: —

Whereas application has been made to the Board of Trade by the County Council of Devon to create a sea fisheries district in accordance with the above Act (herein-after referred to as "the Act"), and to exercise certain other powers conferred upon them thereby:

And whereas the County Councils of Cornwall and Devon, and the councils of the county boroughs of Devonport, Plymouth, and Exeter appear to be interested in the proposed district, and such district will overlap the districts of the Boards of Conservators of the Taw and Torridge, Tamar and Plym, Avon (Devon), Dart, Teign, Exe, Otter, and Axe Fishery Districts, being Boards of Salmon Conservators within the meaning of the Act, and the said Boards have jurisdiction therein:

And whereas the Board of Trade have caused the draft of their proposed Order to be locally published, and local inquiries to be held into the objections made thereto:

Now, therefore, the Board of Trade, by virtue of the powers conferred upon them by the Act and otherwise, do hereby make the following Order:—

1. *Creation of District.*—A Sea Fisheries District is hereby created, comprising so much of the sea within which Her Majesty's subjects have by international law the exclusive right of fishing, with the adjoining coast, as lies within the following limits, namely:—

(1.) On the east a line drawn true north from the seaward extremity of the boundary between the counties of Devon and Somerset near Countesbury, and on the west a line drawn true west from the seaward extremity of the boundary between the counties of Devon and Cornwall at Marsland Mouth; which area may be cited as the northern section of the Devon Sea Fisheries District; and

(2.) On the west a line drawn true south from the seaward extremity of Rame Head, in the county of Cornwall, and on the east a line drawn true south from the seaward extremity of the boundary between the counties of Devon and Dorset near Lyme Regis; which area may be cited as the southern section of the Devon Sea Fisheries District;

such lines being shown on a map marked S. 648–1892, and deposited at the Board of Trade:

Provided that such district shall not in any case extend further northwards than midway between the north coast of the county of Devon and the opposite coast of South Wales, but shall include so much of the sea within which Her Majesty's subjects have by international law the exclusive right of fishing as is adjacent to Lundy Island, with the adjoining coast:

Provided also, that a line shall be drawn in manner following at or near the mouth of every river or stream flowing into the sea or into any estuary, or of the estuaries, within such limits, namely:—

A line at or near the mouth of the River Lynn drawn straight across the said river in continuation of the general line of the coast at ordinary high water;

A straight line at or near the mouths of the Rivers Taw and Torridge drawn true south-west from the lower light at Braunton until it reaches Northam Burrows;

A straight line at or near the mouth of the River Tamar from the south-easternmost extremity of Petre Point to the westernmost extremity of the jetty at Bush Point;

A straight line at or near the mouth of the River Plym drawn true north from the westernmost extremity of the breakwater at Mount Batten until it reaches the sea wall;

A straight line at or near the mouth of the River Yealm, across the said river, true south from the southernmost extremity of Season Point;

A line at or near the mouth of the estuary of the River Erme, across the said estuary, along and in continuation of the general line of coast at ordinary low water;

A line at or near the mouth of the estuary of the River Avon drawn along the ordinary line of low-water mark on the western side of the sands uniting Borough Island with the mainland until it reaches the said island, thence continued straight to the Ordnance Cairn on the said island, and thence straight to Longstone Point;

A straight line at or near the mouth of every river or stream flowing into the estuary known as Salcombe River, across such rivers or streams respectively, at the limit of ordinary high water;

A straight line at or near the mouth of the River Dart from the eastern extremity of Battery Point, near Old St. Petrox Church, to the nearest point on the opposite shore at Kettle;

A straight line at or near the mouth of the River Teign, across the said river, from Lord Clifford's house at Shaldon to the lighthouse at Teignmouth;

A line at or near the mouth of the River Exe, from the seaward extremity of the jetty at Exmouth straight to the Practice Battery on Warren Point, and thence straight to Mount Pleasant;

A straight line across every such river or stream not hereinbefore specified, such line being in continuation of the general line of the coast at ordinary high water:

And such lines shall be the lines above which the Sea Fisheries District shall not extend into any such river or stream.

In respect of such rivers and streams, and also in respect of any area subject to a byelaw made under section 39, sub-section 8, of the Salmon Fishery Act, 1873, the Boards of Conservators of the said Taw and Torridge, Tamar and Plym, Avon (Devon), Dart, Teign, Exe, Otter, and Axe Fishery Districts shall, within their districts respectively, have the powers of a Local Fisheries Committee, under and in accordance with the Act.

The Sea Fisheries District hereby created shall be called the Devon Sea Fisheries District.

2. *Constitution of Committee.*—A Local Fisheries Committee shall be constituted for the regulation of the sea fisheries carried on within the said district.

Such Committee shall be a joint committee of the County Councils of Cornwall and Devon, and of the Councils of the County Boroughs of Devonport, Plymouth, and Exeter, and shall consist of forty-two members, namely:—

One member appointed by the County Council of Cornwall, ten members appointed by the County Council of Devon, one member appointed by the Borough Council of Devonport, five members appointed by the Borough Council of Plymouth, and one member appointed by the Borough Council of Exeter; with the addition of twenty-four fishery members representing the fishing interests of the district, whereof one member shall represent the Board of Conservators of the Taw and Torridge Fishery District, one member shall represent the Board of Conservators of the Tamar and Plym Fishery District, one member shall represent the Board of Conservators of the Avon (Devon) Fishery District, one member shall represent the Board of Conservators of the Dart Fishery District, one member shall represent the Board of Conservators of the Teign Fishery District, one member shall represent the Board of Conservators of the Exe Fishery District, one member shall represent the Board of Conservators of the Otter Fishery District, one member shall represent the Board of Conservators of the Axe Fishery District, and sixteen members shall be appointed by the Board of Trade.

The members to be appointed by the Councils shall be appointed in each year at the meeting of the said Councils respectively held on or next before the 18th day of March:

The members to be appointed by the Boards of Salmon Conservators and by the Board of Trade shall be appointed in each year not later than the 18th day of March:

All the members shall retire, and the new members shall come into office in each year on the 18th day of March:

Provided that the first members to be appointed by the Councils and by the Boards of Salmon Conservators shall be appointed at the meeting of each body respectively held next after the coming into force of this Order; except that, where any Council or Board shall have delegated to a committee of their body the power of appointing such first members, the appointment made by such committee at its first meeting after the coming into force of this Order shall have the same force and validity as if the same had been made by the Council or Board; and the first members to be appointed by the Board of Trade shall be appointed before the 14th day of May next: and that the first members of the Committee shall come into office on the 14th day of May next, and shall retire on the 18th day of March 1893.

Retiring members shall be eligible for re-appointment.

On the occurrence of any casual vacancy in the Committee by death, resignation, or otherwise, the body by whom the vacating member was appointed may fill up the vacancy by a fresh appointment.

It shall be the duty of the clerk or other officer of the Committee to forthwith notify every such vacancy to the appointing body.

It shall be the duty of every appointing body to forthwith notify every appointment of a member of the Committee to the clerk or other officer of the Committee, or, in the case of the appointment of the first members, to the Board of Trade.

No act or proceeding of the Committee shall be questioned on account of any vacancy or vacancies in the Committee, and no defect in the appointment of any person or persons acting as member or members of the Committee shall vitiate any proceedings of the Committee in which he or they have taken part.

Except as provided by section 6 of the Act, no Council shall make, vary, or revoke any regulations or standing orders respecting the quorum or proceedings of the Committee hereby constituted, or as to the area within which it is to exercise its authority: Provided that any Council may make a regulation requiring the Committee to submit to such Council once in each year an estimate of expenses proposed to be incurred by it under the Act, and once in each year a printed abstract of its accounts for the preceding year, and to afford, to any person or persons appointed for the purpose by the Council, access at all reasonable times to the books containing its accounts.

Subject to any restrictions or conditions made under section 6 of the Act, the Committee shall not be required to report its proceedings to any Council, nor shall its acts or proceedings be submitted to any Council for approval.

The first meeting of the Committee shall be summoned by the Board of Trade.

The Committee shall hold four quarterly meetings in each year for the transaction of general business, in addition to any special or adjourned meetings.

Five members shall be a quorum at any meeting of the Committee.

The Committee may from time to time appoint a sub-committee or sub-committees of its body, and may assign to such sub-committee or sub-committees such duties as it may from time to time determine.

3. *Expenses.*—The expenses of the Committee, other than those which may be required to be incurred under section 8 of the Act, shall be chargeable as follows:—

One eighteenth part thereof on the county of Cornwall as general expenses of the Council thereof; ten eighteenth parts on the administrative county of Devon as general expenses of the Council thereof; one eighteenth part thereof on the borough fund of the county borough of Devonport; five eighteenth parts thereof on the borough fund of the county borough of Plymouth; and one eighteenth part thereof on the borough fund of the county borough of Exeter.

4. *Definitions.*—In this Order the expressions "Taw and Torridge Fishery District," "Exe Fishery District," "Otter Fishery District," and "Axe Fishery District," mean respectively the fishery districts of the rivers Taw and Torridge, Exe, Otter, and Axe, as respectively formed and defined under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Acts, 1861 to 1886, by certificates under the hand of one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, dated the 26th day of March 1866; and the expressions "Tamar and Plym Fishery District," "Avon (Devon) Fishery District," "Dart Fishery District," and "Teign Fishery District," mean respectively the fishery districts of the rivers Tamar and Plym, Avon (Devon), Dart, and Teign, as respectively formed and defined under the said Acts by like certificates, dated the 26th day of March 1866, and altered and further defined under the said Acts by certificates of the Board of Trade, dated the 3rd day of February 1891; or any such fishery district respectively as the same may hereafter be altered by a certificate of the Board of Trade.

Signed and sealed by order of the Board of Trade this 31st day of March 1892.

(Signed) HENRY G. CALCRAFT,
Secretary to the said Board.

BOARD OF TRADE AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY.

The following is a statement of the awards for gallantry granted by the Board of Trade during the month of April:—

The Board of Trade have awarded a binocular glass to Mr. Ernest H. Marwick, master of the American barque "Rose Innes," of Boston, in recognition of his kindness and humanity to the shipwrecked crew of the sailing ship "Glencorse," of Liverpool, which was abandoned off Cape Horn on the 21st December 1891.

The Board of Trade have awarded bronze medals for gallantry in saving life at sea, and a sum of 1*l.* each to Daniel Regan, Patrick Regan, Charles Regan, Michael Driscoll, and Hugh Driscoll, fishermen of Calf Island, co. Cork, Ireland, in recognition of their services in rescuing a boy named Isaac Walker, who was washed overboard from a boat towing astern of the "Petrel," of Montrose, off Calf Island, on the 21st January 1892.

The Board of Trade have awarded their silver medal for gallantry in saving life at sea to Thomas Cole, chief boatman, and William Wright, boatman at Kilmore, for their gallant and praiseworthy conduct at the wrecks of the Norwegian barque "Vaar" and the schooner "Esther," of Fleetwood, on the 21st February last

These men went into the surf to assist the crew of the "Vaar" who were being brought ashore by means of the rocket apparatus, and although when the rescue of the crew of the "Vaar" had been successfully effected they were much exhausted owing to the violence of the waves and intense cold, they proceeded to the scene of the wreck of the "Esther," which was ashore at a short distance from the "Vaar," and succeeded in getting on board the former vessel by means of a hawser, and in sending the master, who was reported to be insane and refused to leave the vessel, safely ashore.

The Board of Trade have awarded a gold watch and chain to Mr. W. Willigerod, master of the steamship "Spree," of Bremerhaven, in recognition of his kindness and humanity to the shipwrecked crew of the steamship "Abyssinia," of Glasgow, which was abandoned in the North Atlantic on the 18th December 1891.

The Board have also awarded binocular glasses to Charles Polack, second officer, and John Randermann, third officer, of the "Spree," who were in command of the boats of that vessel which rescued the shipwrecked men, and a sum of 3*l.* to each of the men who accompanied them in the boats, namely:—H. Garr, A. Strauss, G. Werpekat, P. Litter, H. Lammes, J. Schlüter, H. Schröder, M. Hohensang, J. Berteitis, E. Kling, and B. Ahlerichs.

The Board of Trade have awarded a silver medal for gallantry in saving life at sea and a sum of 5*l.* to James Frank Nunn, skipper, and a bronze medal for gallantry in saving life at sea and a sum of 3*l.* to John Day, third hand, of the smack "Prima Donna," of Lowestoft, in recognition of their services in rescuing the crew of the brig "Contest," of Guernsey, which was abandoned in the North Sea on the 13th December 1891.

The Board of Trade have awarded their silver medal for gallantry in saving life at sea to Mr. Daniel Stalker Turney, late second mate of the barque "Aikshaw," of Maryport, in recognition of his services in rescuing life on the occasion of the wreck of the "Aikshaw," near Antofogasta, South America, on the 24th December 1891.

The Board of Trade have awarded a binocular glass to Mr. Otto Bosse, master of the barque "Dr. Siegert," of Bremen, in recognition of his kindness and humanity to the shipwrecked crew of the barque "Chippewa," of Glasgow, which was abandoned in the North Atlantic on the 7th March 1892.

New Commercial Harbour and Warehouses at Salonica.

In a report to the Foreign Office, dated the 6th April, Mr. J. E. Blunt, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, says that a technical commission composed of three engineers of the Oriental railways has recently arrived at Salonica, and is engaged in preparing plans and specifications for the construction of a commercial harbour there. Also that the Turkish Custom house authorities have invited tenders for the construction of large warehouses at Salonica to serve as "entrepôts" for the transit trade to Bulgaria and Servia.

Tenders for Supply of Sub-fluvial Tubes in Ecuador.

Her Majesty's Consul at Guayaquil, has informed the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that the municipality of Guayaquil has invited tenders for laying sub-fluvial tubes from Duran to Guayaquil, a distance of two kilometres.

Tenders must be sent in sealed covers to Guayaquil before June 30th next. Further particulars can be seen on personal application to the Commercial Department of the Foreign Office, between the hours of 11 and 5.

II.—PIG-IRON PRODUCTION IN THE LEADING PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

The following is extracted from an article in the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York, of the 2nd April last:—

The fact that the rate of pig-iron production in the United States, according to the furnace returns, is now the largest ever reached, and that as a consequence prices for iron are extremely depressed, lends additional interest to the statistics showing the course of iron production in recent years in the leading producing countries. We have the figures now for 1891 for Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and France, which together furnish the bulk of the world's annual output of iron.

The first important fact which the statistics disclose is that in 1891, as in 1890, the United States made more pig iron than the United Kingdom, so that this country retains its position as the heaviest iron-producing country of the world—a distinction so long enjoyed by the mother-country. Nor is the difference in favour of the United States small; it amounts to fully a million tons—in exact figures 1,051,374 tons. In other words, while the production of the United States was 8,279,870 tons, that of Great Britain was only 7,228,496 tons. In this the tons are taken at the gross weight of 2,240 lbs. That is the way they are always stated on the other side, and in the present article we shall adopt the same basis, instead of giving the results in the conventional ton of 2,000 lbs. In the year preceding—1890—the United States had a still greater excess over the United Kingdom, our output having been 9,209,703 tons, while Great Britain's was 7,875,130 tons, a difference of 1,327,573 tons, against an excess for the late year, as we have seen, of 1,051,374 tons. Thus there was a falling off in the production of both countries, but while the United States lost 922,833 tons, Great Britain lost only 646,634 tons.

Another interesting circumstance which appears from an examination of the statistics, is that not only in Great Britain and the United States, but also in Germany and France, was there a falling off in production in 1891 as compared with 1890. This however, is natural, and was to be expected, seeing that some of the depressing influences at work in that year affecting industrial interests were very general in their nature, and extended to all the leading European countries. Of course, alongside of either the United States or Great Britain, Germany and France are comparatively small producers, both together making less iron annually than either one of the first two. The falling off from 1891 in those cases has also been small—both relatively and absolutely—Germany having lost 111,006 tons and France but 43,011 tons. We have prepared the following interesting

statement to show the production in each of the four countries in each year since 1880:—

Pig-Iron Production of Leading Countries.

	Tons of 2,240 lbs.		Metric Tons of 2,204 lbs.		Total Four Countries.
	Great Britain.	United States.	Germany.	France.	
1880	7,749,233	3,835,191	2,729,038	1,725,293	16,038,755
1881	8,144,449	4,144,254	2,914,009	1,899,861	17,102,573
1882	8,586,680	4,623,323	3,380,806	2,039,067	18,629,876
1883	8,529,300	4,595,510	3,469,719	2,067,387	18,661,916
1884	7,811,727	4,097,868	3,600,612	1,855,247	17,365,454
1885	7,415,469	4,044,526	3,687,433	1,630,648	16,778,076
1886	7,009,754	5,683,329	3,528,658	1,516,574	17,738,315
1887	7,559,518	6,417,148	4,023,953	1,567,622	19,568,241
1888	7,998,969	6,489,738	4,229,484	1,683,349	20,401,540
1889	8,322,824	7,603,642	4,387,504	1,722,480	22,036,450
1890	7,875,130	9,202,703	4,563,025	1,962,196	23,603,054
1891	7,228,496	8,279,870	4,452,019	1,919,185	21,879,570

Taking the four countries as a whole, we see that aggregate production increased from 16,038,755 tons in 1880 to 23,603,054 tons in 1890, but fell off to 21,879,570 tons in 1891. The decrease in that year was thus nearly 1¾ million tons, but followed a rise of over 7½ million tons in the 10 years preceding. Moreover, almost the whole of the gain was made during the last five years of the decade, for even as late as 1885 the total output of the four countries was only 16,778,076 tons, as against 23,603,054 tons for 1890 and 21,879,570 tons for 1891. The gain was uninterrupted from 1885 on, year by year, till 1891. The fact should not be overlooked, however, that 1885 was a year of low totals, thus furnishing a good basis for the subsequent rise. In fact, between 1883 and 1885 there had been a falling off in the output of almost two million tons, in which falling off all the countries except Germany participated.

Most interesting of all is it to note the changes which have occurred in the relative positions of the four countries. In 1880 nearly one-half of the total output was furnished by Great Britain. In 1891 that country had not quite one-third of the aggregate. On the other hand, the United States, which in 1880 had less than one-quarter of the total, for 1891 had about three-eighths of the whole. Great Britain's output in 1891 was actually 520,737 tons less than in 1880, eleven years before. The output of the United States in the same interval increased from 3,835,191 tons to no less than 8,279,870 tons—that is, was considerably more than doubled. It is not difficult to explain the change. Our output of iron is consumed at home, but in Great Britain a very large proportion of the production is exported, much of it in finished forms. Now, as is well known, the conditions in foreign countries of late years have not been favourable to large

exports of British iron and steel. The Argentine Republic and South American countries generally have been having a hard time of it commercially and financially. In some of the other countries which draw supplies from Great Britain the conditions have been no better. Moreover, the exports to the United States have also been very greatly reduced during the last few years. In 1891 we imported, all told, of all kinds of iron and steel, including tin plates, only 557,766 tons. In 1887, our imports were not far from 1,800,000 tons, indicating a falling off as between that year and 1891 of 1¼ million tons, the most of which loss we may safely assume fell on Great Britain. The same fact likewise shows what has aided the United States in disposing of its steadily enlarging production—part of the increase went to supplant foreign supplies. It will be observed that Germany also has very largely increased its output, though not to the same degree as the United States. As against 2,729,038 tons in 1880, that country in 1891 had an output of 4,452,019 tons, and in 1890, 4,563,025 tons. In France there has been no material advance, the total at 1,919,185 tons for 1891 comparing with 1,725,293 tons for 1880.

III.—RUSSIAN MINING LAW.

The *Viestnik Finançoff* of 17th April publishes the full text of the regulations for private mining enterprise on lands belonging to the Crown, as amended and imperially sanctioned on the 17th February last. The terms of the original law of 1887, which applied only to European Russia, are, from January 1st, 1893, to be extended to the governments of Tobolsk and Tomsk, the countries of Turkestan, and the Caucasus, and to the military governorships of the Steppes, Irkutsk, and the Amoor districts. The law as hitherto in force was found deficient in uniformity and scope, and many questions arose in practice which were not provided for, giving rise to lengthy correspondence, the effect of which upon the mining industries was unfavourable. The regulations are divided into six groups, viz., general rules, rules regarding prospecting and the examination of mineral deposits, rules regarding the grant of allotments for exploitation, the terms upon which such allotments may be worked, the mutual relations to exist between owners of adjacent allotments, and complaints regarding the conduct of government officials entrusted with the supervision of the works and enforcing of the regulations.

Paragraph 6 of group 1 enumerates the mineral products affected by these regulations: (1) metals and metallic ores (except auriferous sand and primary deposits of gold and platinum; (2) coals, combustible shale, and bitumens (except naphtha and amber); (3) graphite; (4) sulphur and pyrites; (5) precious stones; (6) fireproof clays and stones; (7) alum and asbestos. The working of limestone, sand, quartz, and ordinary clays is permitted only in so far as these materials are necessary for mining or smelting works, exeept under special terms to be made with the Government.

It is open to all persons enjoying the rights of Russian citizenship, whether Russians or foreigners, to carry on mining works on the State lands, with the following exceptions: (1.) The secular clergy who, though permitted to have shares, may not take any active part in such enterprise; (2.) persons serving in those departments of the Ministry of Domains dealing with mines and the control of State property; these are forbidden to have any interest in any private mining operations on the Crown domains in any part of the Empire; (3) officials of the same department serving on the local administrative staffs of the State mines, or the inspecting staffs of the private mines worked on Crown lands, these are forbidden to have any share in any such private mines in the district in which they are stationed, and this prohibition applies also to their wives and children living with them; (4) Jews are disqualified if they are forbidden permanent abode in any such mining district.

Coming to the second group, dealing with prospecting and expeditions in search of mineral deposits, it is provided by paragraph 16 that these may be carried out free of payment, provided such prospecting, &c. be confined to the surface and entail no destruction of timber; no special permission is needed in such cases nor is there any limit fixed as to area. If, however, the district to be examined be situated in a State forest, or be farmed out, notice must be given to the local ranger or official. Any person desiring to make a closer examination of mineral deposits with the right of removing any timber obstructing his operations, of making borings, sinking shafts, &c., must mark each place so selected by digging a deep hole, and cutting his initials and the date on an adjacent tree, stone, or fixed post. The spot having been thus marked, the local administrative body must be petitioned for a permit to carry on the work of prospecting. The particular mineral sought after must be specified, and a sum of 30 roubles per annum paid for each plot when the permit is obtained. If, on completing the survey, the holder of the permit do not proceed to the working of a mine, he is obliged on the expiry of such permit to fill up or enclose any borings, pits, &c., and to remove the posts or marks which he has made; he must also compensate the State for any loss arising from diminished productiveness of the land, the amount of such compensation to be fixed by the local officers in charge of the Crown domains.

In group 3 dealing with applications for allotments on which to work mines, it is stated in paragraph 36 that persons desirous of working mineral deposits which they have discovered may apply for from one to four plots not exceeding a square verste each; but in the case of clay, limestone, sand, or quartz the area of a plot must not exceed 5,000 sq. fathoms. The application must be accompanied by the money necessary to defray the cost of sending government officers to inspect the allotments and satisfy themselves that the specified mineral really exists therein.

Group 4, regarding the terms on which allotments are held, provides that they may be worked until the deposits forming the object of working are exhausted, and that they may be legally inherited or transferred. The holder may use, free of charge, all fallen timber, and may clear away such growing timber as hinders his operations on paying the Crown the market value, or a price fixed by the Ministry of Domains, but he must, in addition indemnify the Forestry Department for the loss sustained through the cutting down of timber at times and in places not corresponding with the scheme of forest economy being pursued by the department. He may obtain supplies of timber necessary for carrying on his works from the Crown forests at the market prices, or for sums fixed by the Ministry of Domains, but he is not permitted to remove outside his allotment any timber so obtained, or cut down within the same.

Preliminary operations for mining must be started within one year of the grant of the allotment, and the actual working of the mineral must have commenced in each plot within three years of

the same date. The annual output must not be less than a quantity fixed by the local mining authorities, and this quantitative standard cannot be raised within 20 years of the date of the concession. If called upon to do so the concessionnaire is bound to furnish the Government with a return of the output and sale of mineral products effected by him. In addition to the payments and indemnities already referred to he must further pay the Crown an annual rent for the surface of his concession, amounting to the average annual revenue derived by the latter from the land during the three years preceding the grant, but this payment may not be less than one rouble per dessiatine. If he wish he may give notice of his intention not to utilise any portion of the surface of his allotment while retaining the right of working beneath the same. In such cases a proportionate reduction will be made in the rent, but the remainder must not be less than would be chargeable on the whole surface calculated at one rouble per dessiatine. This rent is payable on the 2nd January and 1st July in each year. Four months' grace is allowed, after which a fine of 10 per cent. on the outstanding amount is inflicted.

In the matter of the relations which must exist between owners of neighbouring concessions it is provided that the holder of any one allotment must allow those of adjacent ones to construct roads (railway and other), channels for carrying off water, and other similar works, passing through his allotment, should the inspecting official decide that such are necessary, and not calculated to obstruct him in prosecuting his enterprise. When the water on one allotment is drained off owing to the draining operations of a neighbouring concession the owner of the former must pay the owner of the latter for the advantage so derived.

Finally, group 6 provides as to the periods within which, and the department to which complaints affecting the conduct of the local authorities and officials should be addressed.

IV.—THE COAL PRODUCTION OF GERMANY.

The following particulars of the coal production of Germany during the decennial period 1881–90 are extracted by the *Bulletin du Musée Commercial* from a report of the Belgian Consul-General at Nuremberg, dated the 21st March :—

The extraction of coal in Germany amounted for the year 1881 to more than 48,000,000 tons, valued at about 12,612,000*l.*; since then it has increased steadily, and in 1890 it exceeded 70,000,000 tons, representing a value of 26,902,000*l.*

The production of England in 1890 amounted to 182,000,000 tons; Germany is second among those European countries producing coal; France then follows with 26,000,000. Notwithstanding the considerable progress in the working of the German collieries, the number of the latter has decreased during the last decennial period from 497 to 425.

The collieries of Bavaria are found in the provinces of Upper Franconia, Upper Bavaria, and in the Palatinate. Compared with the year 1881 the collieries of Upper Franconia, on the south-western slope of the Frankenwald, show, for 1890, an increased production of 7·8 per cent. The deposits in Upper Bavaria, near Miesbach, Pensberg, and Unterpeissenberg have increased their production in the course of the last ten years by 202,300 tons, or 69·5 per cent., the last figures registered showing a production of 290,500 tons; the value of the production of coal in Upper Bavaria has increased during the same period from 130,000*l.* to 237,000*l.*

The production of the Palatinate was, in 1890: at St. Ingbert, 1,644,526 metric quintals, and in 1889, 1,865,831 quintals; at Mittelbexbach, in 1890, 27,860 tons.

In Lower Franconia, Ruhr coal is principally used; in Upper and Middle Franconia the coals of Bohemia and Saxony; in the Upper Palatinate those of Bohemia; and in Upper Bavaria, Lower Bavaria, and Swabia coal from the collieries of Upper Bavaria and Bohemia. The Sarre coals which come to Bavaria are used by the gas-works and railways.

It should be added that the production of Saxony was, in 1890, 12,100,000 tons, and that of Bohemia, for the same period, 8,900,000 tons of coal and 12,100,000 tons of lignite.

The consumption of coal at Nuremberg and in its environs is very important.

Industrial establishments use principally Bohemian lignite (*Böhmische Braunkohle*); private individuals use Saxony coal (from Zwickau); for American hearths use is generally made of anthracite, coming principally from Kohlscheid, near Aix-la-Chapelle, and from Ludwigszeche.

The reduction of the carriage rates (9 marks per 100 kilogrammes), which came into operation in the autumn of 1890, has compensated, as regards Nuremberg, for the increased prices resulting from the strikes.

V.—TELEPHONIC DEVELOPMENT IN BELGIUM.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 26th March, Mr. Martin Gosselin, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Brussels, transmits a report by Mr. Conyngham Greene, second secretary to Her Majesty's Legation, on the history and progress of telephone enterprise in Belgium.

From this report it appears that up to the year 1883 the telephone service in Belgium was in the hands of private companies, and the uncertain character of the concessions granted by the State checked the free expansion of private enterprise.

Between 1880 and 1883 three separate telephone systems were in operation in Brussels, but, owing to competition, and the refusal of the companies who worked the lines to grant mutual subscriptions over the lines of their rivals, no great success was obtained by any of them.

It was only in 1883 that the State Department of Posts and Telegraphs took the initiative in organising and developing the telephone system of the country. An important law was discussed and voted in that year authorising the Government to undertake themselves, or to concede, on fixed conditions, to others, the establishment and development of telephonic lines.

The passing of the law was marked by a rapid development of telephonic enterprise in the country. The uncertain and temporary character of the previous authorisations gave place to a sure and regular system of concessions, and the effect produced was immediate.

In September 1883, a few months after the passing of the accounts, the Bell Telephone Company (La Compagnie Belge du Téléphone Bell) bought up the interest of the two rival companies of Brussels, and secured a concession not only for the capital itself, but also for the towns of Ghent, Antwerp, Verviers, and Charleroi.

Considerable difficulty and expense had to be encountered at the outset. The price asked for their rights by the expropriated companies was exorbitant, and the initial cost of getting the business of the Belgian company into working order was considerable. Still the results were satisfactory.

The company started with a capital of 3,400,000 frs. (136,000*l.*) of which 765,000 frs. (30,600*l.*) were not called up, leaving a paid-up capital of 2,635,000 frs. (105,400*l.*), of which more than two-thirds was at the outset devoted to buying up the rival plant and apparatus, and replacing those which were worn out and inefficient.

The aerial lines, consisting of wires of iron and steel of 2 millims. 1 diameter, were unsatisfactory; they necessitated support at very short intervals, did not last well, and were liable to sudden damage from tempestuous weather. They were replaced by phosphor-bronze wires on the Montefiore system. Owing to the superior capability of this wire for bearing a strain, it was found possible to diminish the number of supports previously required, and thus to get rid of much useless material. Moreover, the expense of repairing the wires was materially reduced, owing to the fact that breakages were of very rare occurrence, and the interruption of the service proportionally unusual.

This phosphor-bronze wire, which is made by the firm of Montefiore at Anderlecht, a suburb of Brussels, has now supplanted the cheaper but less durable iron or steel wire, at first employed from motives of economy, not only on the lines of the Compagnie Belge, on which it has been laid over some 10,000 kilometres (6,000 miles), but also on the lines of the Liège and other companies, as well as on the State lines. In fact, it may be said to be practically universally employed on the various systems of the country.

The wires used are of 1 millim. 4 diameter, and 1 millim. 25 diameter, and weigh 13·7 kilos. (roughly 27 lbs.), and 10·9 kilos. (roughly 22 lbs.) respectively per kilometre, the cost at the present rate of prices being 30 frs. and 25 frs. (1*l.* 5*s.* and 20*s.*) respectively per kilometre.

In addition to the wires themselves, the poles, the apparatus, and the plant of the central office had all to be replaced.

By way of dividend the Compagnie Belge distributed in 1889 among its shareholders 268,750 frs. (10,750*l.*), and 379,528 frs. (15,181*l.*) in the following year, while the number of subscribers had risen from 4,051 on the 31st December 1888, to 4,726 at present.

Almost simultaneously with the formation of the Belgian company, and in the same month (September 1883), the Liège Bell Telephone Company obtained a concession for working that town and suburbs, and now numbers 787 subscribers, while concessions were subsequently granted for the following lines:—Louvain, Mons, Namur, Courtrai, and Malines, numbering together some 800 subscribers, the grand total thus amounting to about 5,500 subscriptions in all.

The necessity for a reorganisation in the system, as adopted by the companies, for satisfying the needs of the public, has of late years stimulated the State to lay and work lines on its own account, and the experiment thus made has been most successful and encouraging

The following minor lines have been laid and are now being worked by the State:—(*a*) Bruges-Heyst; (*b*) Ostende-Niewport; (*c*) Termonde-St. Nicolas; (*d*) Tournai; (*e*) Huy-Andenne.

On all these lines the subscribers are connected by a twin wire with the central office.

At the present moment all the important central points of the country are connected by telephone, and subscribers to different lines can correspond with one another on payment of the comparatively trifling charge of 1 fr. (10*d.*) for a conversation of five minutes or less, and of 1 fr. 50 c. (1*s.* 3*d.*) for a conversation of more than five minutes but not exceeding 10 minutes.

It was thought at first that in order to effect this communication between the various lines it would be sufficient to anti-induct, by the Van Rysselberghe system, the ordinary telegraph wires in the country. But being of iron, they did not lend themselves readily to telephony, even in the absence of any telegraphing, and the State is now replacing them by the Montefiore bronze wires, which are much more suitable for use in telegraphing and telephoning simultaneously, and these wires are now being used exclusively by the State in the erection of aerial telegraph lines in preference to wires either of galvanised iron or of steel.

The State has already some 11,000 kilometres of this wire in work throughout the country.—(*No.* 229, *Foreign Office Miscellaneous Series.*)

VI.—THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES OF SWITZERLAND.

M. Paul Muller writes as follows in the *Journal de Economistes* for February, with regard to the economic condition of Switzerland :—

Switzerland occupies an area of 41,346 square kilometres, distributed as follows :—arable, prairie, and pasture land, 21,439 kiloms. ; forests, 7,853 kiloms. ; and vines, 345 kiloms.—together 71 · 7 per cent. of the total area. Rocks, &c., 8,127, kiloms. ; glaciers, 1,839 kiloms. ; lakes and running waters, 1,581 kiloms. ; area built over, 162 kiloms.—together 28 · 3 per cent. of the total area.

The last census taken in 1888 shows a population of 2,933,334 souls, of whom 1,427,377 are men. Foreigners represent 8 · 1 per cent. of the population, or 238,313 souls. The density of the population is 71 per kilometre of the total area, and 99 per kilometre of the productive country.

The most important towns are : Bale, 69,809 souls ; Geneva, 52,043 ; Berne, 46,009 ; Lausanne, 33,340 ; Zurich, 27,644 ; St. Gall, 27,399 ; Chaux de Fonds, 25,603 ; Lucerne, 20,314, &c.

About 40 per cent. of the population are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and over 50 per cent. in trade and other industries. In trade are included the hotels, which play an important part in such a country as Switzerland, visited by numerous tourists. There are in Switzerland about 1,000 hotels, containing altogether about 58,000 beds, and employing 16,000 persons. The receipts of these hotels amount annually to 2,000,000*l.*, a sum which is almost equal to the budget of the Confederation.

In 1889 Switzerland possessed 3,000 kiloms. of railways, which gave employment to a staff of 18,380 persons, and carried in the year 29,485,094 travellers and 9,405,656 tons of merchandise, with 3,544,000*l.* for receipts, and 1,837,000*l.* for expenditure. The working capital amounted to 42,569,000*l.*, and the average dividend paid on it was at the rate of about 3 · 54 per cent. The large lines were finished some years ago. The attention of the constructors and the bankers is now turned towards the mountain railways. Railways, very difficult in construction, are being built everywhere.

Switzerland may be considered as an industrial country of the first importance ; to all appearances endowed with numerous natural forces which, owing to the progress of electricity, are susceptible of being utilised, she is only at the commencement of her industrial development. The extension of industry is so

much easier for her as she has capital in abundance in the old and rich cities, such as Geneva and Bale, where the commercial spirit has descended from generation to generation. The following data relating to the actual industrial condition are extracted from official documents compiled in virtue of the factory law:—

1. *Textiles.*—Cotton, 432 establishments with 36,238 hands; silk, 227, with 27,819 hands; wool, 47, with 3,528; trimming, 1,139, with 17,920; hosiery, &c., 86, with 3,574 hands; and linen, 12, with 722. Total for textile industries, 1,943 establishments, employing 89,901 hands.

2. *Leather, Caoutchouc, Straw, &c.*—Leather and caoutchouc, 62 establishments, employing 4,951 hands; straw, hair, felt, 36, with 996 hands; brushes, &c., 17, with 498. Total, 115 establishments, employing 6,445 hands.

3. *Articles of Food.*—Mills, chocolate, &c., 220 establishments, employing 3,339 hands; tobacco, 125, with 6,505; and beer, alcohol, vinegar, 65, with 858. Total, 410 establishments, employing 10,702 hands.

4. *Chemical Products*, 115 establishments, with 2,696 hands.

5. *Paper and Printing.*—Paper, 51 firms, engaging 2,698 hands; printing works, 221, with 4,658 hands. Total, 272 establishments, with 7,356 hands.

6. *Wood Industry*, 7,234 establishments, with 5,048 hands.

7. *Building*, 102 establishments, with 2,751 hands.

8. *Glass and Porcelain*, 38 establishments, employing 1,241 hands.

9. *Metals.*—Working in metals, 107 establishments, employing 4,157 persons; machine industry, 249, with 16,490 hands; clock and watch and jewellery making, 191 establishments, with 12,409 hands. Total, 547 establishments, with 33,056 hands.

The total number of establishments is 3,786, which give employment to 159,534 workpeople.

As regards the foreign trade of the country the imports in 1888 were valued at 33,000,000*l.*; in 1889, at 38,000,000*l.*; and in 1890 at 40,000,000*l.* The exports in 1888 were valued at 27,000,000*l.*; in 1889, at 28,000,000*l.*; and in 1890 at 29,000,000*l.*

In 1890 the imports from European countries were valued at 35,000,000*l.*, and from America at 1,400,000*l.*; the exports to the European countries were valued at 22,000,000*l.*, and to America at 4,000,000*l.*

As regards the imports, the first place is taken by Germany, with 11,800,000*l.*; then comes France, with 9,000,000*l.*; Italy, with 5,000,000*l.*; Austria-Hungary, with 4,000,000*l.*; England, with 2,000,000*l.*; Russia, with 1,300,000*l.*; Belgium, with 1,200,000*l.*; the United States, with 1,100,000*l.*; and Egypt, with 570,000*l.* With regard to the exports, the order is, Germany, with 7,000,000*l.*; France, with 5,000,000*l.*; England,

with 4,000,000*l.*; the United States, with 3,000,000*l.*; Italy, with 2,000,000*l.*; Austria-Hungary, with 1,600,000*l.*; and Belgium, with 500,000*l.*

Entering into details with regard to the industries of chief importance, we find that the import of cotton in 1889–90 was estimated at 10,838,106 bales, of which 7,313,726 came from America (not including Brazil), 2,795,850 from the Indies, 438,440 from Egypt, 164,420 from Brazil. The corresponding figures were 9,313,443 bales in 1885–86, 9,796,097 in 1886–87, 9,924,807 in 1887–88, and 10,208,929 in 1888–89.

In Switzerland, according to the census of 1888, there are 92 cotton-spinning establishments with 1,722,299 spindles, producing 22,725,000 kilogrammes, and occupying about 11,000 workpeople. Exclusive of spinning properly so-called, 58 twisting establishments work with 73,444 spindles and 1,300 workmen, producing about 2,400,000 kilogrammes. Weaving is carried on by 65 factories with 16,800 looms, 9,900 workmen producing about 10,000,000 kilogrammes.

In 1890 Switzerland imported cotton valued at 1,660,000*l.*, yarn worth 275,000*l.*, different tissues and cottons worth 1,077,000*l.*, and exported yarn worth 1,000,000*l.*, different tissues and cottons worth 5,440,000*l.*

Loom embroidery has largely developed at St. Gall, in Appenzell and Thurgovia. The number of machines has increased in 10 years by 30 per cent., and that of the workmen in equal proportion.

As regards the number of workmen, the silk industry occupies the second rank in Switzerland. In 1890 the silk crop of the world amounted to 11,400,000 kilogrammes, of which quantity 5,000,000 were in Europe and the Levant, and 6,400,000 in Eastern Asia.

In 1890 Switzerland imported silk to the value of 5,640,000*l.*, and exported 7,870,000*l.* worth. The chief articles of export are tissues of which France has bought 1,000,000*l.*, England 720,000*l.*, Germany 266,000*l.*, the United States 172,000*l.* Of half-silk ribbons England has taken 704,000*l.*, the United States 250,000*l.*, France 90,000*l.*; of half-silk tissues the United States has taken 263,000*l.*, England 87,000*l.*, France 80,000*l.*; of half-silk yarn Germany has bought 900,000*l.*, France 182,000*l.*; of organzine and weft silk Germany has taken 738,000*l.* and France 148,000*l.*

Wool comes immediately after silk and cotton. Switzerland does not export any articles of wool, but she imports a large quantity.

The tobacco industry is much developed in Switzerland, for the use of tobacco there is almost as extensive as in Germany. Switzerland imported in 1890 unmanufactured tobacco to the value of about 384,000*l.*, cigars and cigarettes 89,200*l.*, and exported cigars and cigarettes worth 126,000*l.*

As regards beer, Switzerland draws the raw materials from abroad. Thus in 1890 hops worth 74,000*l.*, barley worth 60,000*l.*, and malt worth 290,000*l.* were imported. She imported 52,300

hectolitres of beer, almost exclusively from Germany. The native production is estimated for 1890 at 1,295,000 hectolitres (hectolitre = 22 gallons), an increase of 136,000 hectolitres over 1889. This development of production has brought about a very active competition, a lowering of prices, and finally a less prosperous condition of the brewing industry.

If the Swiss like beer, they are none the less partial to wine, especially the inhabitants of French Switzerland. As vine growing is not very extended, large quantities of wine are imported, about 1,000,000 hectolitres yearly, of which 300,000 come from Italy, 270,000 from France, 185,000 from Austria, and 100,000 from Spain. The manufacture of raisin wine is largely carried on; the metric quintal of raisins only pays three francs import duty.

Cheese-making industry constitutes an important branch of the national industry. In 1890 Switzerland exported cheeses worth 1,528,000*l.*, of which 426,000*l.* worth went to France, 391,000*l* to Italy, 336,000*l.* to Germany, and 156,000*l.* to the United States

The value of the export of condensed milk averages about 400,000*l.*

A large business is carried on in machinery in Switzerland, the exports amounting in 1890 to 1,300,000*l.*

The clock and watch-making industry has been long established. In 1890 Switzerland exported clocks and watches to the value of about 4,000,000*l.*, 1,680,000*l.* for gold watches, 1,480,000*l.* for silver watches, and 520,000*l.* for watches of common metal. Germany is the best customer. Her purchases were valued at more than 800,000*l.* in 1890. The figures shown by the Customs give only an approximate idea of the foreign output. Many foreigners are supplied on the spot at Geneva. This town is also the centre of the jewellery industry. To the manufacture of gold chains and ornaments is added the cutting of precious stones.

Notwithstanding her numerous hydraulic motors, Switzerland is obliged to have recourse to coal. Of this article she imports annually on an average about 900,000 tons.

VII.—THE SICILIAN SULPHUR INDUSTRY.

The French Consul at Messina has recently addressed a report to his Government upon the condition of the sulphur industry in Sicily. He states that the production of sulphur in 1891 showed a decided falling off as compared with 1890, the amounts being 4,499,479 cantars (13 cantars = 1 ton) in the former and 3,817,053 cantars in the latter year. This diminution is owing in great measure to the fact that the large mines which represent three-fourths of the production worked with exceptional activity at the time of the last crisis, in order to distribute the general expenses over a much larger product, with the result that at the present time they are unable to show an increased out-turn, and in some cases there is a very decided diminution in the amount produced. Again, no new workings were begun during the period that the crisis lasted.

As regards the smaller mines, which are very numerous, these show no increase in production, while a large number have gone out of working altogether. In considering the question of the diminution in the supply of sulphur, account must also be taken of the variation in the number of hours devoted by the workmen to labour in the mines. When prices were low the Sicilian labourers were obliged to work like persons engaged in other industries, six days a week and as many hours as was found necessary, in order to extract the ore in sufficient quantity to enable them to draw an ordinary wage. With the enhanced value of the product came an increase in the price of labour, the workmen then commenced to work by the half-day with one day a week off, and then a reduction of the hours of labour was effected, to the extent that about 24 hours' work a week is now about all that an ordinary labourer in the sulphur mines performs. Consequently, as the working mining population is limited and is composed of special workmen, the production becomes more and more restricted.

Among other causes of diminution in the output may be mentioned the placing under cultivation of land productive of ore of an inferior quality, and which the owners thought it more to their advantage to cultivate than to work for sulphur, and the imposition of a new tax of 60 centimes per kilogramme upon the manufacture of mining powder.

The very gravest apprehensions are felt for the future of the sulphur industry in Sicily. It is expected that for some years to come the production will be to a great extent limited. In the first place a restriction of labour appears to be threatened by the action of the Italian Legislature affecting the employment of children. Of the latter many of 11 to 12 years of age are engaged in the mines carrying ore, and owing to the absence of capital it will be difficult for the mine owners to replace their labour by machinery.

The depth of the mines is continually increasing, particularly in the case of those mines in which shafts are sunk vertically, and

these latter are by far the most important and the richest. With an increase of depth, difficulties also increase, these consisting of more improved methods of extraction, greater ventilation, and the employment of larger pumps, all of which require considerable outlay. It will, therefore, in the opinion of M. de Lalande, be some years to come before the average production of the last 10 years is again reached.

According to the chief engineer of the Sicilian mines, the falling off in the production of sulphur in 1891, as compared with 1890, amounted to over 58,000 tons, and this was owing to the wild speculations in Sicily, especially those which were engaged in between December 1890 and May of the following year, and which ruined many of those engaged in the sulphur industry. At this period also throughout the world (for Sicily furnishes nearly nine-tenths of all the sulphur used) merchants, agriculturists, and manufacturers, in fact consumers of all kinds, rather than purchase at the then exorbitant prices, exhausted their stocks, and if it became necessary to buy they confined their orders to a supply only just sufficient to carry them on from day to day.

The exhaustion of the stocks of sulphur in foreign countries brings into relief the fact that the falling-off in the demand is more accentuated in countries where sulphur is more particularly employed for agricultural purposes, and especially in the treatment of vines, as for example in France and Greece, than in countries like the United States, England, Austria, and Sweden, where sulphur is used chiefly in the various industries, and is therefore the object of frequent and direct purchases. From the United States, however, evidences are forthcoming of a tendency to substitute for certain industrial purposes pyrites for sulphur, but this substitution can only be effected slowly and in factories having had the time to renew their plant, and there is little probability of all of them acting in this respect simultaneously This abandonment of sulphur in certain respects would find its compensation in the employment of the article by new industries or by the application of improved processes. In this connexion mention may be made of the methods now being attempted in Germany of extracting fatty substances and oils by the action of liquid sulphuric acid, and if, as is claimed, this system is superior, so far as results are concerned, to all those hitherto in vogue, it points in the future to a fresh outlet for sulphur and one not without some importance.

M. de Lalande, speaking of the present condition of the sulphur market in Sicily, says that it is by no means unsatisfactory; the production certainly shows a tendency to restriction, but this in his opinion is due less to an absence of confidence than to the want of new outlets. Capital is wanting, labour is dear, and miners difficult to find, but in his opinion the outlook is far from discouraging, as the sulphur beds in Sicily still enjoy the reputation of being the finest in the world.

VIII.—FOREIGN COMPETITION WITH BRITISH TRADE IN MOROCCO.

In his general commercial report to the Foreign Office for the year 1891, Mr. Charles A. Payton, Her Majesty's Consul at Mogador, writing on the subject of the foreign competition sustained by British trade in Morocco, says:—

The competition of Germany has undeniably affected British trade here to an appreciable extent, especially during the last two years.

Previous to the establishment of the "Woermann" and "Atlas" lines, the German steamer "Gottorp" had in 1886 paved the way for German commerce, I believe with some support from the Government, by working up and down the Morocco coast laden with samples of German products of all kinds.

Recent statistics show the effects of this competition as being felt in cloth, sugar, candles, beer, and cheap hardware, including toy and fancy goods.

Attention has been called in previous reports to the large quantity of German cloth imported, and samples have been sent home by me, from which it would appear that though the qu aliy of the German goods is certainly not superior to that which our Leeds and Bradford manufacturers can supply, but rather the reverse, with but slight difference in price, yet the Germans here, as elsewhere, are more pushing in the extension of their foreign trade, offering, even when they do not actually undersell us, the advantages of longer credit and easier terms of payment than British merchants care to give.

The light German beer seems to suit the climate, or the taste of local consumers, better than our heavier British products, the importation from Germany last year amounting to 439*l.*, from England only 32*l.*

It is not a subject of much importance at present, butit may be mentioned that it is not a first-class "lager bier" which is sent to these regions, but a cheap specially-prepared article termed "export bier," which can be put on the market here at the rate of about 6*s.* 6*d.* per dozen to 7*s.* per dozen, wholesale.

Cheap hardware of a very miscellaneous character, toy and fancy goods, and extremely cheap cutlery, form also rather a German speciality, and affect the market of superior and more durable British wares among the natives, who are easily tempted by low-priced goods.

The following analysis of the development of German trade here may be of interest:—

In 1886 the imports consisted of 1,200*l.* worth of sugar. 1887, sugar, 5,265*l.*; sundries, 100*l.* 1888, sugar, 2,850*l.*; beer, 140*l.* 1889, beer, 49*l.*; deals, 80*l.*; steel, 36*l.* sugar, 96*l.*; sundries,

185*l.* 1890, beer, 289*l.*; candles, 576*l.*; china, 154*l.*; cloth, 850*l.*; cotton goods, 125*l.*; deals, 165*l.*; empty casks, 570*l.*; furniture, 69*l.*; glassware, 192*l.*; hardware, 1,578*l.*; iron, 10*l.*; matches, 440*l.*; paint, 10*l.*; perfumery, 86*l.*; provisions, 20*l.*; spices, 75*l.*; stationery, 12*l.*; wines and spirits, 24*l.*; sugar, 1,032*l.*; sundries, 204*l.*

In 1891 the variety at first sight appears less, but many possibly interesting articles seem to have been lumped together under the head of "sundries." We find beer, 493*l.*; candles, 1,200*l.*; coffee, 400*l.*; rice, 360*l.*; spirits and wine, 1,119*l.* (a large increase); sugar, 9,350*l.*; and sundries, 5,336*l.* The latter included. as mentioned in Section IV., glassware, paper, porcelain, ironware, towelling, toys, empty sacks, perfumery, biscuits, chocolate, and many other articles.

The export trade to Germany commenced in 1890 with the working of the "Woermann" and "Atlas" lines. The first year they took, almonds, 12,600*l.*; beans, 133*l.*; beeswax, 720*l.*; citrons, 32*l.*; cummin seed, 507*l.*; goat-skins, 75*l.*: gums, 900*l.*; olive oil, 29,248*l.*; orris root, 36*l.*; sesame, 33*l.*; wines and spirits, 2*l.* (samples of native make).

In 1891 we find almonds, 8,550*l.*; beeswax, 2,304*l.*; calf-skins, 108*l.*; citrons, 320*l.*; cummin, 24*l.*; esparto, 6*l.*; goat-skins, 801*l.*; gums, 2,250*l.*; oil, 10,710*l.*: orris root, 224*l.*; rose leaves, 72*l.*; sesame, 48*l.*; sheepskins, 160*l.*; wines and spirits, 60*l.*; wool. 1,008*l.*; sundries, 432*l.*

There have been considerable fluctuations, and occasional fallings-off, in French trade during the past 12 years, but France is still an important competitor in such articles as sugar, candles, silks, matches, and stationery.

The quantity of loaf-sugar imported here is always large, and amounted in 1890 to 57,552*l.* (32,040*l.* from France, 19,680*l.* from England), and in 1891 to 70,475*l.*, of which 43,000*l.* was from France, 14,000*l.* from England, the remainder from Germany and Belgium.

Going back some 10 years we find the importation in 1882, 14,220*l.* (all from France); 1883, 15,780*l.* (all from France); since which time England and other countries have contributed their share.

In candles, in which France had at one time almost the monopoly, the trade has largely increased, and England appears to have gained the ascendancy, sending, in 1891, the value of 7,477*l.*, while only 1,063*l.* worth came from France, and 1,000*l.* from Germany. Looking back to 1883 we find only 585*l.* from France, and 43*l.* from Great Britain, and the totals, in 1882 and 1881, were 585*l.* and 710*l.* respectively (nearly all from France).

But of special articles, in which foreign countries command the market, to the exclusion of Great Britain, there are but few, and those mostly of minor importance.

Light German beer has been already referred to.

Cochineal is largely cultivated in the neighbouring Canary Islands, and naturally comes from there.

And coral, mostly from Italian waters, naturally comes *viâ* Marseilles, though England occasionally contributes a little.

The bar-iron, I have frequently noticed, though coming from England, is almost entirely of Swedish production; if the amount were larger this point would be worthy of the attention of our iron-masters; as it is, the importation of the last two years amounted to 2,000*l.* and 2,960*l.* respectively.

In wax matches, France appears to have practically the monopoly, though Germany sends a small quantity, and some coming through France are of Italian make.

If English makers thought it worth their while to attack this monopoly, they should produce very thin wax matches about 1½ inch in length, in attractive gay-coloured thin cardboard or thick paper boxes (about 50 matches in a box), capable of being put on the market here at 2*s.* per gross, wholesale.

It having been shown in previous sections that the British share in the trade of this district is a satisfactory one, it is evident that we must look for the advancement of the British trade, rather to measures of general utility, and to the fuller development of the agricultural resources, and closely-allied commercial interests of Morocco.

The permission for exportation of all cereals at a reasonable duty (that on wheat being now apparently quite prohibitive, and that on barley nearly so) would do much to encourage and largely extend agricultural operations throughout this most fertile country.

Another important factor in this direction would be the proper recognition and establishment of the privileges ostensibly granted to Europeans by the Madrid Convention (Article XI.). The permission to hold land and house property in this Empire, which seems, at any rate in these southern districts, practically a dead letter, for it has proved in most cases impossible to get Moorish notaries to legalise deeds of sale or transfer of real estate for Europeans.

The permission for exportation of live animals at a moderate duty would doubtless give an impetus to stock-breeding generally, while improved cultivation of fruit might lead to exportation of wine of grapes and raisins, oranges, dried figs, &c.

There are, doubtless, large mineral resources in Southern Morocco, in copper, lead, antimony, iron, &c., only requiring development.

With improved farming and intelligent irrigation, new products might be advantageously tried, such as cotton (which was cultivated for a short time during the American war), tobacco (of which the cultivation and sale are at present forbidden), coffee, cochineal, &c.

Mogador is very occasionally visited by English and French commercial travellers; Germans come more frequently, and I have seen some Spanish and Italian.

I doubt whether business on a really large scale has been done here through their agency, for, in the great staples of import and

export trade, the leading merchants of the place have already their established relations on the European markets, especially in England, while, although an energetic traveller might procure a little new business in the smaller lines of hardware, cutlery, perfumery, fancy goods, biscuits, stationery, &c., it is very doubtful whether the "turn-over" would be commensurate with the distance and expense of the journey, unless taken en route and in connexion with any larger business in neighbouring countries, such as the Canaries and Spain, for instance.

I am confirmed in this opinion by the experience of a merchant and factor, of great experience and energy, dealing largely in all classes of hardware, cutlery, glass, china, &c., who himself made several journeys through this part of the Empire, carefully studied native tastes and patterns, and brought with him a large and most attractive assortment of samples, but has ultimately, I believe, given up the country, and sought other lands where intelligence and energy will result in business on a much larger scale.

IX.—COTTON SPINNING IN JAPAN.

The Secretary of the French Legation at Tokio, in a recent report to his Government, gives the following particulars of the cotton-spinning industry in Japan.

Cotton spinning dates only in Japan from 1848, and was then limited to the provinces governed by the Prince of Satsuma. This branch of industry remained stationary for many years, when, towards the commencement of the twelfth year of Meiji (1879) the Government, recognising the advantages which its development presented for the future of the country, ordered in Europe machines on a new model, which it distributed in certain provinces and districts of the Empire. Notwithstanding these official arrangements few factories were established up to recent years, and the yarn manufactured according to ancient methods, although superior to 16 "suji" (threads), sufficed to satisfy the limited demand of the market under the general name of "Japanese cotton yarn."

In 1881–82 (14th and 15th years of the Meiji) several companies undertook the establishment of new workshops. The number of bobbins, which, in 1884, amounted only to 35,000 in all, reaches at the present time 380,000, and the capital devoted to the spinning of cotton amounts to 10,000,000 piastres. At first, this large extension of production resulted in burdening the market with yarns specially intended for native consumption, and the necessity of producing a yarn of superior quality, capable of competing with similar articles of foreign origin, requires great economy and care on the part of the Japanese manufacturers. Owing to the strenuous efforts put forth collectively by them,

owing to the spirit of solidarity which holds them together, owing also to the sacrifices they imposed on themselves by sending, in 1889, a special agent to the Indies whose mission was to study thoroughly the art of cotton spinning, the Japanese producers finally reaped the fruit of their perseverance, and have had the satisfaction of seeing the imports of cotton yarns, which previously were growing larger and larger, gradually diminish in recent years. It is worthy of note that the estimated value of this article, one of the most important of foreign imports, reached in three years (from 1888 to 1890 inclusively) more than 12 million yen (the yen is equivalent to about 4s.). This figure shows that if the efforts of the Japanese have been crowned with success, a final victory has not yet been achieved, and that the native spinning industry must be careful to preserve and increase the advantages which have been obtained during the last 10 years.

The 20,000 workmen employed, the 10,000,000 piastres at disposal, and the 380,000 bobbins gives this industry a preponderating place in the national production, and will probably enable it very soon, not only to completely meet the wants of the country, and to dispense with the imports of foreign yarns, but also to seek markets in China and Corea.

The imports of cotton yarns into Japan during the years comprised between 1882 and 1890 were as follows :—1882, 252,097 piculs; 1883, 266,406 piculs; 1884, 211,867 piculs; 1885, 213,973 piculs; 1886, 246,303 piculs; 1887, 332,965 piculs; 1888, 474,396 piculs; 1889, 428,109 piculs; 1890, 319,083 piculs. The estimated value of the imports in 1882 was 7,815,356 yen, and in 1890, 9,928,062 yen. The imports for 1891, the results for which have just been published, indicate a value of no more than 5,589,289 yen.

X.—STATE METALLURGICAL WORKS IN JAPAN.

A correspondent of the *Economiste Français*, writing from Tokio, says that the Japanese Government have for a long time had the intention of establishing in the country its own works to supply the needs of the army and navy. According to a report recently made by the commission composed of engineers of the different ministries (Marine, War, Commerce, and Agriculture), which has been empowered to examine and report upon this scheme, the annual consumption of iron for the army and navy will be 3,000 tons. But according to the evidence given before the said commission, the general consumption, both for the army and navy and private industries, will assume larger proportions from one year to another, and it is estimated that it will reach 7,000 to 8,000 tons for establishments of the two first. Little profit will, it is anticipated, be derived from the Imperial works, as probably only sufficient will be made to just cover the general working expenses.

This will appear evident if comparison be made between the price of unwrought iron and the expenses which must be incurred to transform it in Japan into rolled iron. Thus, rolled iron purchased on the London market at present costs the Japanese about 64 yen per ton. With regard to the price of iron manufactured in Japan, it may be urged that the unworked iron costs about 30 yen per ton, to which should be added 50 yen for expenses of manufacture, and further 12 yen for the workmen's wages, which shows that iron made in the country would cost at least 90 yen per ton. It appears from the foregoing that the Japanese would derive more gain from rolled iron coming from foreign markets than from that produced at home.

It must, however, be taken into consideration that the price of 64 yen given above is that of iron of common quality. Now, according to the requirements for the time being, it frequently happens that for iron 100, 200, and even 300 yen per ton has to be paid. It follows that for the good qualities a saving would be effected by the Japanese works, because the expenses of manufacture must be the same as for common iron.

In the second place it must not be forgotten that by the commencement of this new industry in Japan a new branch of labour will be opened up to the workmen. This point is of some importance in view of the development of the national resources, and with an increased production of 80,000 tons of iron per annum, the country will be endowed with industries of the most importance for the well-being of a nation. It is with this object that the Government has decided to establish

these metallurgical works, and that it has recently demanded a vote of 2,250,000 yen from the Chamber of Deputies. The plea on which the Government looks for support by the vote of the legislative body gives the following reasons:—

"The consumption of iron for the army and navy has been for the 23rd year of Meiji (1890), 3,000 tons, but this figure will be further increased by 3,000 tons when the arsenal of the two admiralties of Kouré and Sasého are constructed, and the works of naval construction are doubled in the yard of the naval arsenal at Yokoska. Again, 700 to 800 tons per annum may be counted on for the manufacture of arms and different engines of war. This would give a total annual consumption of 8,000 tons for the Government arsenals."

The Government will proceed to found these new works in the following manner:—In the first year, that is in 1892, it will purchase the land and engage the foreign engineers who are to be entrusted with the management of the establishment. During the second year, the works themselves will be constructed and the machinery fixed there, and, finally, in the third year (1894), the manufacture of iron will be commenced. The sum to be expended on this enterprise will be divided as follows:—Of the sum of 2,250,000 yen, the total amount of the expenditure, 1,750,000 yen will be devoted to the purchase of land, to expenses for the construction of buildings, to the engagement of engineers and foreign workmen and the purchase of the necessary machinery and materials. Lastly, the remaining 500,000 yen will be used as a manufacture fund (purchase of ore, &c.).

XI.—THE FOREIGN TRADE OF JAPAN IN 1891.

Mr. Hugh Fraser, Her Majesty's Minister at Tokio, in a despatch to the Foreign Office dated the 17th March, forwards an account of the proceedings at the last annual meeting of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce. The report on the foreign trade, both for the port of Yokohama and for the whole of Japan, submitted to the members, contained the following references :—

Looking at the figures for Yokohama compiled by the Chamber for the last as compared with the previous year, we find that deliveries of imports have fallen off by about 7 per cent., while exports have gained about 64½ per cent. The decrease is owing mainly to the diminished deliveries of yarns, while the increase is due entirely to the larger export of raw silk and silk piece-goods. According to the Customs figures, however, the imports show a falling off of about 28 per cent., while the exports show an increase of 53¼ per cent.

For the whole of Japan the result shows a decrease in imports of 25 per cent., and an increase of exports of about 40 per cent.

The former is accounted for by the diminished imports of yarns, manufactured goods, metals, and a long line of miscellaneous articles too numerous to recapitulate, while the larger export is mainly due to increased quantities of silk and rice sent abroad.

The total foreign trade of the country in imports and exports shows an increase for last year of only about 3 per cent., while looking back 10 years the surprising result is seen of an increase of about 113 per cent. And there is every reason to believe that the trade will continue to grow, if we look at the large and increasing culture of the mulberry in many parts of the country, to the important developments in coal and copper mining, and to the surplus supplies of rice in ordinary years arising from an increased area of cultivation, besides the manufacture of innumerable articles which find markets abroad. Increased exports should naturally be followed by larger imports, although perhaps not altogether on the same lines as at present, for we have seen already the changes which have taken place in the import of yarns, for instance, and some other heretofore staple articles, for with increased wealth new wants will be felt, and these may be best, or in great measure, supplied from foreign countries. Altogether the prospect for a further development of the foreign commerce of the country is encouraging, still not necessarily profitable in these days of keen competition to those engaged in it.

As bearing upon an important industry — that of cotton spinning—the import of raw cotton in 1890 was 521,417 piculs, valued at 5,365,153 dols., and for 1891, 800,841 piculs, valued at 8,199,251 dols.

The number of mills reported in December was 34, of which 27, with 287,138 spindles, were then working, several having been disabled by the earthquake on the 28th October last.

The quantity of raw cotton used in the 27 mills in December was 52,506 piculs, and the product in yarn 44,496 piculs, at an average cost of 24·42 dols. per picul.

This industry is an important one, especially as bearing upon the importation of foreign yarns, and is probably now beyond the experimental stage, notwithstanding the mills are dependent upon the raw staple mainly from China and India.

The importation of kerosene oil is deserving of reference as an important and increasing trade.

Rice as an article in the foreign trade has exhibited great changes within the past two years. Thus, in 1890, owing to short crops, the import was 4,596,495 piculs, valued at 12,302,884 dols., while the export was 385,027 piculs, valued at 1,323,510 dols.

In 1891 the import was reduced to 1,677,980 piculs, valued at 3,907,991 dols., while exports increased to 1,998,586 piculs, valued at 6,213,333 dols

A serious adverse element in the trade has again been the fluctuations in the value of silver, and consequently the rates of exchange on gold-using countries, as Europe and America, the extreme variation in bank sight bills on London during the year having been nearly 12½ per cent. These fluctuations have made business very uncertain and perplexing. There are indications now which lead to the hope that the market price of silver will hereafter be more uniform than it has been during the past two years.

The great earthquake of the 28th October last should not be passed over without mention, although with the very full accounts which have been published it seems unnecessary to enter into particulars except to say that its full force was felt in Aichi and Gefu prefectures, where many lives were lost and a vast amount of property was destroyed, besides disabling four large cotton-spinning mills. Many of the old native industries were destroyed, some of which have not yet been resumed.

Regarding other matters, as affecting those engaged in the foreign trade of Yokohama there has been no improvement in the Hatoba accommodation, nor in Custom house methods of doing business.

Some comments have been made by the Japanese press upon the remarks of Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Hiogo in his annual report upon the difficulty in obliging native buyers to carry out their contracts. The committee desires to support those remarks, as, in its opinion, with some few exceptions, there is an absence of regard amongst the Japanese dealers met with here for the promises they make. Many of them have no hesitation in keeping sellers waiting often many months beyond the time stipulated for delivery without providing for loss of interest and the expense of carrying the merchandise, while they often claim unreasonable allowances upon the most trivial pretexts.

XII.—THE WOOLLEN INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Census Office at Washington has recently issued an important bulletin bearing upon the subject of the woollen industry in the United States, and presenting, amongst other matter, the following information:—

In the presentation of the statistics of wool manufacture the tendency to a geographical concentration is especially noteworthy. Its great seats are in the New England States, Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey. With the disappearance of Custom carding mills in the outlying States, the actual product of several of these States shows a decline. This tendency to concentration follows that marked in the cotton manufacture, and is also peculiar to the textile industries in the European countries.

The total number of establishments reporting in 1890 was 2,770, as compared with 2,689 in 1880. These had a total capital of 320,417,304 dols., as against 159,091,869 in 1880. The total number of hands employed rose from 161,557 in 1880 to 221,087 in 1890, to whom, in wages, there were paid 47,389,087 and 76,768,871 dols. respectively. The cost of materials used was 203,095,642 dols. in 1890 and 164,371,551 dols. in 1880, the value of products being 338,231,109 dols. as compared with 267,252,913 dols.

Of the total capital in 1890, woollen goods absorbed 137,930,014 dols.; worsted goods, 72,194,642 dols.; felt goods, 4,589,021 dols.; wool hats, 4,369,184 dols.; carpets other than rag, 39,769,441 dols.; and hosiery and knit goods, 55,457,642 dols.

The great increase shown in the amount of capital employed as between 1890 and 1880 is more apparent than real, and is largely due to the fact that the capital returned for the census of 1880 did not take cognizance of all items which properly go to make up "live assets," and which, it is believed, are for the first time fully included in the census of 1890.

The total number of hands employed were distributed among the different branches as follows:—Woollen goods, 79,394; worsted goods, 43,593; felt goods, 2,266; wool hats, 3,592; carpets other than rag, 29,189; and hosiery and knit goods, 63,053.

The wages paid to the workmen in the various branches, together with the corresponding value of their products, were as follows:—Woollen goods, 28,479,531 dols. and 133,612,827 dols.; worsted goods, 15,880,183 and 79,194,652 dols.; felt goods, 1,041,296 and 4,654,768 dols.; wool hats, 1,363,944 and 5,329,921 dols.; carpets other than rag, 11,639,176 and 47,801,409 dols.; and hosiery and knit goods, 18,364,741 and 67,637,442 dols.

The data for 1890 cover every branch of the manufacture of wool, including card rolls made in Custom mills, yarns made for sale, every description of woollen and worsted cloths and woollen and worsted dress goods, blankets, flannels, braids, felts of every description, carpets, wool hats, and hosiery and knit goods (including all wool, merino, and cotton hosiery and knit goods). There were also 93 mills reported as engaged in the manufacture of shoddy as their principal product.

The proportion of machinery absolutely idle in 1890 was about 7 per cent. of the whole number of sets of wool machinery. The particulars of the idle machinery are—sets of cards, 612; combing machines, 35; spindles, 172,634; looms, 3,018; and knitting machines, 1,821.

The following statistics show the machinery capacity of the industry in 1890 and 1880, exclusive of shoddy mills and of the machinery wholly idle in 1890:—Sets of cards, 8,200 in 1890 and 7,581 in 1880; combing machines, 855 and 518; spindles, 3,286,280 and 2,254,996; looms, 69,876 and 57,530; and knitting machines, 36,924 and 14,769.

The number of sets of cards reported in 1880 was 7,581, which is now increased to 8,200 in operation, exclusive of the 612 sets wholly idle during the census year. The number of sets of cards in operation in 1890 thus appears to have increased by 619. The actual increase of machinery capacity has been greatly beyond what these figures indicate, for the following reasons:—

1. A large portion of the cards reported in 1880 were single cards, of old-fashioned make and limited capacity, running in Custom carding mills for a short time in the year. In the modern manufacture, a set of cards consists of three cylinders, 48, 60, and in some cases 72 inches in width, and often making 125 revolutions. The introduction of the modern card has enormously increased the capacity for production and rendered quite unsatisfactory any calculations of comparative capacity based upon the number of sets of cards. Of the 267 mills reported idle during the census year, the great majority were equipped with old-fashioned machinery, which establishments have found it impossible to compete with more advanced competitors. The measure of the machinery capacity of the wool industry, as in the cotton industry, should be the spindle.

2. A further evidence of the increased capacity of the wool machinery appears in the increase of combing machines from 518 in 1880 to 855 in 1890. This increase marks the tendency in the manufacture from woollen goods to worsted goods, a tendency further shown by the increase in the value of worsted products, while the value of the products of woollen mills has declined. This is one of many evidences of the radical influence of changes in fashion upon the wool manufacture. A combing machine, with its accompanying preparatory machinery, is estimated to equal the productive capacity of from two to three sets of cards, and the increased machinery capacity arising from the substitution of combs for cards is thus greater than appears on the face.

A marked decrease in the number of woollen mills proper is observable beyond the decrease accounted for by the explanation above given. This is a continuance of the tendency observable in 1880. The census of 1870 reported 2,891 woollen mills; that of 1880, 1,990; that of 1890 shows 1,312. This decreases is due to the disappearance of the Custom carding mills, which formerly carded wool to be spun in families. The census of 1880 contained returns from 570 of these neighbourhood carding mills, besides 233 other mills, each of which used less than 5,000 lbs. of raw material per annum.

These local carding mills have now almost disappeared, while the number of fully equipped mills, supplied with machinery for all the processes of manufacture, has considerably increased.

There has occurred during the decade a great and general reduction in the market value of the goods covered by this report. The value of the products given, therefore, indicates a much greater quantity of production than the same value in 1880 or any previous year would have signified. The true measure of the progress of the wool industry is therefore the quantity of the products rather than the total value of those products. This quantity it will be possible to supply in detail when the tabulation is completed. It is a fact commercially well known that the year 1889–90 was a comparatively dull year in the wool manufacture. It is now being compared with the year 1879–80, which is generally recognised as the most prosperous year this industry has yet known in the United States.

The most striking feature of the above statistics is the growth of the knit goods industry. The number of knitting machines employed increased from 14,338 in 1880 to 36,764 in 1890, and the value of the products increased from 29,167,227 dols. to 67,637,442 dols., or 132 per cent. It is believed that no single branch of industry will show a more remarkable advance over the totals presented in 1880 than the manufacture of hosiery and knit goods.

In this connexion it is proper to add that the hosiery and knit goods industry is classified with the wool manufacture, in accordance with the rule of classification in mixed textiles, which groups them according to their component material of chief value. The value of the wool consumed in hosiery and knit goods in 1890 was 8,269,418 dols. and of the cotton 3,714,065 dols. If it were practicable to so take the census of this industry, the value of their product would probably be apportioned between the wool manufacture and the cotton manufacture in about the same ratio.

It must be considered that the statistics presented under the head of "Hosiery and knit goods" necessarily include a great branch of industry that is distinctly a cotton industry. The quantity of cotton consumed in the wool manufacture proper will be exaggerated in calculations based upon the foregoing tables, which do not take this fact into account. Of the total of 75,638,865 lbs. of cotton here reported, 32,447,617 lbs. were used in hosiery and knit goods, and of the total value of the

products of hosiery and knit goods establishments (67,637,442 dols.) about 20,000,000 dols. was pure cotton hose or knit goods, into which not a particle of wool entered.

Attention is also directed to the fact that many woollen mills are also equipped with cotton machinery, and their report of products includes the purely cotton goods manufactured by them.

XIII.—FAILURE OF THE COCOA CROP IN ECUADOR.

Mr. W. H. D. Haggard, Her Majesty's Minister at Quito, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 22nd March, says that the crop of cocoa, which is the staple product of the country of Ecuador, has failed again this year.

Taken in conjunction with the "taboo" put on Guayaquil in consequence of the yellow fever there, and with the general uneasiness at future prospects, this state of affairs is likely to be fraught with serious consequences to the commerce of the country. Trade has already much suffered, both at Quito and Guayaquil, and the rate of exchange furnishes the best proof of the condition of affairs. At the time that Mr. Haggard forwarded his despatch, it was at 45 per cent., a rate which is much higher than usual.

XIV.—INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FIELDS FOR CAPITAL IN MEXICO.

A report has recently been presented to the French Government by the French diplomatic agent in Mexico, upon the undeveloped mineral and agricultural resources of that country. From this report the following information has been extracted :—

The richness of the soil of Mexico exceeds anything that can be imagined. In a relatively small area all climates and products are found. It is not necessary to travel great distances in order to pass the region of wheat, of the beet, oak, and pine, of the vine, olive, and orange, and of the sugar-cane, coffee, and vanilla. The transitions are rapid. The traveller who passes through the torrid region of Vera Cruz in the morning may at nightfall enter into the region of eternal snows.

The absence of means of communication has paralysed the efforts of numerous agriculturists, but this disadvantage is disappearing daily; the railways are extending and branching out rapidly throughout the country.

The wealth of the subsoil of Mexico is enormous; silver, gold, copper, iron, lead, tin, and all other minerals abound everywhere. The volcanoes contain immense quantities of sulphur; the petroleum wells and salt deposits present favourable openings for capital.

The abundance of raw materials and the cheapness of labour favour the establishment and development of industries. The raw materials cost little; there is no lack of coal mines, the working of some of them having already given satisfactory results. In Mexico, therefore, not only could the metallurgical industries be profitably established, but also weaving, sugar, dyeing, and other industries. These industries certainly have at the present time some representatives, but they are by no means sufficient for such an extended market.

There is also a lack of saw and wood mills, and paper, oil, and soap factories; there are no tanneries, glassworks, distilleries, factories of chemical products, for which some lakes and volcanoes offer inexhaustible quantities of valuable products.

The working of Mexican mines may yield excellent results. A fortune may, it is said, be quickly made by working the silver mines provided that, after a careful examination into the value of the mines, capital, economy, and intelligence are exercised. Experience has shown that working on a large scale can only achieve good results.

The agricultural workings in Mexico, as is the case with the mines, require careful study combined with intelligence, industry, and economy; but the former industry differs from the latter in that it requires the outlay of less capital, and the results obtained are nearly always certain.

Agriculture is, therefore, the first element of Mexican wealth. The farmer is the most suitable immigrant for this fertile country. Vast lands can be acquired in which grow a number of vegetables, with a few hundred piastres, often with a few piastres only.

One of the most simple and lucrative branches of culture in Mexico is that of coffee. Tobacco can also give marvellous results.

M. Offenbach, one of the most distinguished members of the French colony of Mexico, who has had hitherto 500 Indians under his orders for the cultivation of tobacco at Tuxtepec, asserts that he has obtained tobacco at least as good as the best Havana, in leaves 1·10 metres in length, the fineness and aroma of which will bear comparison with any. And Mexico as a tobacco-growing country has this advantage, that whilst the lands of Cuba are exhausted, and it is necessary to invigorate them with the aid of guano, Mexico possesses virgin lands which can produce excellent tobacco for several centuries to come without the aid of manures.

The plants attain remarkable dimensions. But the culture and preparation of the tobacco require great care and a knowledge of the special climatic conditions of the district. It is no use going to Mexico to cultivate tobacco with pre-conceived ideas, for the methods which elsewhere give good results cannot be employed in that country with success. It is, therefore, necessary to find out methods in the culture and preparation which are suited to the places themselves.

Labour is plentiful, the Indians are content with a wage of 37 centavos on an average in the warm lands where culture is most difficult.

The initial expenses are always very high, and the chief enterprises especially require the outlay of very considerable capital which can only be supplied by wealthy individuals or companies.

A capital of 40,000 dollars well laid out in the culture and preparation of tobacco in Mexico can, in the opinion of M. Offenbach, produce an annual profit of 100,000 dollars.

The check to certain English mining and agricultural enterprises in Mexico is due, according to M. Adrien Rey, the French Agent in Mexico, to sending young managers from England, inexperienced and incompetent, to a country with which they have no acquaintance. In Mexico competent and honest managers can easily be met with, and as agriculture is subject in Mexico to exceptional conditions with which the people of the country are thoroughly acquainted, it is considered almost indispensable to confide the administration of agricultural enterprises to Mexicans themselves.

In a report upon the openings for the establishment of an industry for the manufacture of silk and cotton tissues in Mexico, the *Monde Economique* in its issue of the 9th April says :—

Within recent years the question of the production of silk in Mexico has been seriously discussed. The climate is most favourable to the breeding of the silk-worm, and it is reasonable

to assume that the proximity of the important markets of the United States, the provisions of their Customs tariff, which admits raw silks free of duty and levies prohibitive duties on foreign tissues, and finally, the want of success hitherto met with in the United States by silkworm-rearers, should not be without influence on the rapid development of the production of this article.

Sericulture has been, almost since its institution, accompanied by spinning, then milling and also weaving, and factories have been established at different places by foreigners—English, Germans, Americans, Spaniards, &c. The Mexican authorities encourage their efforts and sometimes assist them by subventions and bonuses.

One of the industries capable of the greatest development and extension in Mexico is that of the manufacture of mixed tissues of silk and cotton, the production of which has increased so rapidly within recent years, which have the advantage of being very pretty and cheaper than is generally imagined. A factory of this kind established in Mexico would be placed on an exceptionally favourable footing, for it would have excellent and cheap labour at its disposal, and would find on the spot all the raw materials required, silk as well as cotton.

In reality, the production of the latter article has gradually diminished in Mexico for the last 12 years; but this diminution is explained by the fact that textile industry is still very little developed and cannot withstand the competition of foreign tissues. But things are undoubtedly on the eve of a radical change; a new Customs tariff framed on very protectionist lines, which, says the *Moniteur Officiel du Commerce*, will certainly be the ruin of the consumer, but which will enrich a few industries, has been applied to Mexico since November 1891.

This new Customs tariff also protects the silk spinneries and factories. Again, to the Customs duties should be added the duties payable on entry into different States, which are on an average 5 per cent. of the Customs tax.

XV—AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF PARAGUAY.

Mr. F. Pakenham, Her Majesty's Minister at Buenos Ayres, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 14th February, encloses a report on the finances and general state of the Republic of Paraguay, prepared by Mr. Arthur Herbert. The following information with regard to agricultural production in Paraguay is extracted from the report in question :—

The census taken in the first three months of 1890 gave the following result in squares of 100 yards square :—

Rice, 601; lucerne, 260; mani, 1,747; mandioc, 34,232; potatoes and vegetables, 1,312; cotton, 317; sugar-cane, 5,387; maize, 40,000; beans, 6,450, tobacco, 9,130; coffee plants, 33,966.

The 9,130 squares of tobacco that figure in this statement produced 821,700 arrobas of this product, and the amount exported in 1890 was 615,310 arrobas (15,382,750 lbs.), leaving for commerce and existence for the year 1890 the amount of 206,390 arrobas (5,159,750 lbs.), making a total of 821,700 arrobas (20,542,500 lbs.).

In consideration of the sums lent by the banks to agriculturists, and the high price that this article has obtained in the year 1891, agriculturists have been tempted to devote themselves very much to the cultivation of tobacco, so much so that the output for 1892 is calculated at 1,200,000 arrobas (30,000,000 lbs.), which at actual prices in the Argentine would represent 2,000,000 dols., Paraguayan currency, or, at 600 per cent., 66,666*l.*

The change in tariff in the Argentine, I am informed, will practically exclude foreign tobacco from the market, and unfortunately the Paraguayan tobacco has so far not found favour in the European markets.

The superficies of the forests of Paraguayan tea owned by the Industrial Paraguayan Company in the departments of Concepcion. San Pedro, San Estanislao, Igatimi, and Tacurupucú, consists of 400 square leagues (4,500 acres each), according to titles of purchase. The surveyors, Real de Oliveira and Santiago Rivas, have made the surveys, and have verified the fact of the existence of the 400 leagues of forest, in which the plant is scattered in patches of varying extent. The production of the present year will not be under 450,000 arrobas, and the "yerbales" the company own are capable of producing 500,000 arrobas (12,500,000 lbs.).

The entire production will not be under 800,000 arrobas, but it is calculated that 1,000,000 arrobas (25,000,000 lbs.) can be produced yearly. The medium price of sales in the present year is 5 dols. an arroba (equal 2*d.* per lb.). The value of the total production of this tea represents a value of 4,000,000 paper dollars (at 8*d.* exchange = 133,300*l.*).

If the "Industrial Paraguaya," with 400 square leagues of forests, can produce yearly 500,000 arrobas of tea, the 1,000,000 arrobas, which it is calculated as the maximum that can be produced yearly, should represent an area of yerba-producing forests of 800 square leagues; but as every year new ranchos or natural plantations of the *Ilex Paraguayensis* are discovered, the area of "yerbales," or yerba-producing forests, may possibly be set down at 1,000 leagues.

Besides the "Industrial Paraguaya" there are many other firms producing yerba maté for commerce.

The textile plant called "caraguatá" abounds and grows naturally in every part of the Paraguayan Republic.

In the year 1879 Messrs. Braulio Artecona and Luis L. Lenguas made experiments with machinery that they established in the department of Arroyos y Esterios, having obtained from the Government a concession for the working of this product freely for the space of 15 years in all fiscal lands, and to export the same when manufactured free of duty.

This industry did not give satisfactory results, owing to the inexperience of those in charge and the imperfection of the machinery. After several fruitless attempts they retired, and their concession lapsed.

In 1889–90 Mr. Artecona again organised the same industry with modern machinery, and took a contract from the company "Tejidona," of Buenos Ayres for all he could remit. He remitted altogether 400 tons, and the result of the sale might have been remunerative if he had not committed the fault of employing inexpert hands and spent his capital in useless experiments, and he again suspended operations.

Attending to sundry requests from Europe, certain commercial men have lately remitted samples that arrived in perfect condition, from which a profitable result was obtained; but when they remitted large quantities in the year 1890 it fermented on the voyage, and arrived in Europe in an unacceptable condition.

The ibira is a species of *Caraguatá bromelia*, and its fibre is of a finer quality than that of its congener, but neither of them have obtained any importance in commerce, owing to the cost of cleaning and separating the fibre from the leaves. Several attempts, as above mentioned, have been made, but so far without any great success. From the interest which has been awakened in this product in European markets it would seem to deserve a more serious study, and the opinion seems to prevail that with an improved machinery and more skilled administration more profitable results might be obtained.—(*No.* 1006, *Foreign Office Annual Series.*)

XVI.—MERCANTILE

We extract the following from the Accounts of the Mercantile

RECEIPTS.	Cash.
	£ s. d.
For balance in hand on 1st April 1890 - - - - - - -	77,579 15 10
For parliamentary grant in aid - - - - - - -	40,000 0 0
LIGHT DUES AND LIGHTHOUSES:	
For light dues collected - (In England. £ 412,768 0 11 — In Ireland. £ 14,544 18 6 — In Scotland. £ 81,142 13 3 — Total. £ 508,455 12 8)	
For proceeds of sale of old plant, stores, &c., and per-centages for extraneous services - (Trinity House. £ 4,357 13 1 — Irish Lighthouses. £ 445 3 0 — Northern Lighthouses. £ 20 19 4 — Total. £ 4,823 15 5)	
For contributions from Imperial and other funds - - - (Trinity House. £ 375 0 0 — Irish Lighthouses. — — Northern Lighthouses. — — Total. £ 375 0 0)	
For rents of disused lighthouse property. (Trinity House. £ 1,467 12 6 — Irish Lighthouses. £ 50 7 0 — Northern Lighthouses. £ 138 16 11 — Total. £ 1,656 16 5)	
£ (In England. £ 418,968 6 6 — In Ireland. £ 15,040 8 6 — In Scotland. £ 81,302 9 6 — Total. £ 515,311 4 6)	515,311 4 6
MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICES AND SURVEYS:	
For fees, &c., received under "The Merchant Shipping Acts" - £ 50,688 7 8	
Contribution from surplus interest for work done at the ports in connection with seamen's savings banks - - - - £ 180 0 0	50,868 7 8
CHAIN CABLES, &c.:	
For fees received under section 2 of the "Chain Cables and Anchors Act, 1874" -	400 0 0
SAVING LIFE:	
For commission on sales and proceeds of old apparatus and stores - - -	38 11 2
MISCELLANEOUS:	
For unclaimed wages, &c., of deceased seamen received in the year 1884-85 -	4,022 7 0
For unclaimed wages, &c., of living seamen received in the year 1888-89 -	342 15 4
For one year's interest on the invested portion of the unclaimed wages, &c. -	487 10 0
For unclaimed wreck and salvage, 1888-89 - - - - - -	773 18 4
For Amount of Accrued Commission on Foreign Money Orders - - -	3,239 16 5
INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS - - - - - -	886 1 11
INVESTMENTS:	
Securities purchased—Consols, 70,000*l.* - Exchequer bills, 10,000*l.*	
£	693,956 8 2

MARINE FUND.

Marine Fund for the year ending 31st March 1891.

EXPENDITURE.	Trinity House.	Irish Lighthouses.	Northern Lighthouses.	TOTAL.	CASH.
LIGHT DUES AND LIGHTHOUSES:					£ s. d.
Maintenance of lighthouses	£ 41,389 14 7	£ 28,286 16 6	£ 29,172 15 1	£ 98,849 6 2	
Maintenance of lightvessels	71,535 19 10	19,419 19 6	1,148 4 5	92,104 3 9	
Maintenance of buoys and beacons	7,479 14 5	874 15 9	1,203 15 11	9,558 6 1	
Maintenance of steam and sailing vessels	30,810 13 9	9,491 12 0	9,026 19 7	49,329 5 4	
Maintenance of district storehouses, &c.	12,346 14 8	3,042 6 3	788 7 11	16,177 8 10	
Head office expenses	20,729 16 3	5,886 18 8	4,928 10 8	31,545 5 7	
Miscellaneous expenses	8,548 2 3	1,857 14 2	2,345 14 6	12,751 10 11	
Charges of collection of light dues	5,540 17 9	610 19 4	600 0 0	6,751 17 1	
Superannuation allowances	9,158 1 3	2,653 1 11	2,554 8 3	14,365 11 5	
New works in building lighthouses, &c.	30,677 2 3	4,100 0 5	16,267 12 5	51,053 15 1	
Expenditure on stores for the Trinity House Depôt, not yet appropriated	514 1 0	—	—	514 1 0	
£	238,730 18 0	76,233 4 6	68,036 8 9	383,000 11 3	
For salaries at the Board of Trade in respect of the collection of light dues in Ireland and Scotland				545 6 9	383,545 18 0
MERCANTILE MARINE OFFICES AND SURVEYS:				£ s. d.	
For salaries and expenses at the various ports in the United Kingdom				132,291 0 9	
For expenses of investigations into the conduct of masters, mates, and engineers				1,401 18 3	133,692 19 0
CASUALTY RETURNS:					
Expenses of obtaining particulars of casualties to vessels					5,701 2 11
CHAIN CABLES, &c.:					
For expenses under sect. 2 of the "Chain Cables and Anchors Act, 1874"					38 3 2
SAVING LIFE:				£ s. d.	
For expenses of life boats, apparatus for saving life, and gratuities for saving lives on the coast of the United Kingdom				12,144 0 6	
For expenses of the Committee on Life Saving Appliances				195 10 3	12,339 10 9
RELIEF OF DISTRESSED BRITISH SEAMEN ABROAD:					
Subsistence and conveyance to the United Kingdom				20,718 16 0	
Rewards for saving lives abroad				490 9 7	
Commission				356 18 2	21,566 3 9
BOILER EXPLOSIONS:					
For expenses of Inquiries					954 9 4
PENSIONS:					
For pensions granted by the Trinity House Corporation, before 1st October 1853				53 19 0	
For pensions and superannuation allowances in respect of ballastage service on expiration of the Act 6 & 7 Vict. c. 57				514 2 11	
For Pensions to mercantile marine officers and surveyors				4,145 0 2	4,713 2 1
INTEREST:					
On loan of 200,000*l.* from the Greenwich Hospital Commissioners					7,500 0 0
INVESTMENTS:					
Purchase of securities, viz., consols, 70,000*l.*, and exchequer bills, 10,000*l.*, out of surplus cash accumulating for the discharge of the debt to the Greenwich Hospital Commissioners					77,200 0 0
Balance in hand on 31st March 1891					46,698 19 2
				£	693,950 8 2

(Signed) ALLEN STONEHAM,
Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade.

MERCANTILE MARINE FUND—*continued.*

STATEMENT of the SUMS expended for NEW WORKS in BUILDING LIGHTHOUSES, &c. in the United Kingdom, from 1st April 1890 to 31st March 1891.

Nature of Work.	Expenditure during the Year ended 31st March 1891.	Total, including Expenditure in previous Accounts.
ENGLAND.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Lighthouses:		
St. Catherine's (improvement of light)	221 12 9	221 12 9
Round Island, Scilly (new lighthouse)	19 14 11	15,623 19 1
Southwold (new lighthouse in place of Orford Low, extinguished)	2,635 6 6	6,035 5 2
Orford Lighthouses (improvement of high light and removal of low lighthouse)	435 19 8	1,262 9 9
Whitby (improvement of light)	1,213 13 8	1,213 13 8
Needles (improvement of light)	524 17 3	524 17 3
Light Vessels:		
(No. 56) new light vessel and fog signal (Middle Cross Sand)	5 18 5	12,976 14 7
(No. 61) new light vessel (to replace Kentish Knock, sunk)	161 18 2	9,384 6 11
(No. 62) new light vessel (Edinburgh Channel)	2,719 11 3	9,400 4 4
(No. 63) new light vessel (Black Deep)	4,060 2 3	9,363 3 3
Haisboro' (fog signal)	679 7 3	679 7 3
Buoys and Beacons:		
Edinburgh Channel Lighted Buoys	11 3 8	2,524 3 3
N.W. Shingles and Longsand Beacons	157 2 4	510 1 1
"Irene," new steamer in place of "Galatea"	19,039 19 4	31,189 10 5
Credit	31,886 7 5	
Lighthouses, Bishop Rock (strengthening tower and improvement of light)	1,209 5 2	64,602 0 4
	30,677 2 3	
IRELAND.		
Lighthouses:		
Bull Rock (new lighthouse to replace the Calf Rock Lighthouse destroyed)	18 13 3	29,534 15 4
Tuskar Rock (improvement)	263 6 7	10,676 0 8
Black Rock, Mayo (shore dwellings)	1,632 4 11	1,690 12 2
Howth Bailey (dwellings)	1,279 5 0	1,279 5 0
Poer Head Fog Signal (improvement)	571 3 9	572 8 1
Oyster Island (change in position of the north light)	125 16 5	125 16 5
St. John's Point (improvement of light and fog signal)	96 17 11	96 17 11
Valentia Beacons	121 12 7	123 12 4
	4,109 0 5	
SCOTLAND.		
Lighthouses:		
Fair Isle (two new lighthouses and fog signals)	7,598 13 3	7,646 19 3
Corsewall (fog signal, with alterations and additions to dwellings)	2,436 17 1	6,842 5 8
Bell Rock (fog signal)	25 13 5	177 17 8
Chicken's Rock (fog signal)	153 10 0	169 5 1
Point of Ayre (additional light and fog signal)	4,670 0 6	6,948 11 7
Beacon Lights:		
Stroma	397 2 9	402 7 9
Grey Rocks	386 9 3	391 14 3
Light Vessel:		
North Carr Rock (light vessel and fog signal)	599 6 2	13,770 19 11
	16,267 12 5	
	51,053 15 1	245,960 18 2

Exchequer and Audit Department, Somerset House, London, W.C.

I hereby certify that the statement of the account of the Mercantile Marine Fund, rendered by Allen Stoneham, Esq., Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trade, from 1st April 1890 to 31st March 1891, has been signed and passed by me under the 36th section of the Act 29 & 30 Vict. c. 39, and that the charge and discharge on the said account are as follows:—

	£ s. d.
Charge	693,950 8 2
Discharge	647,251 9 0

and that on the said account the accounting officer is indebted in the sum of forty-six thousand six hundred and ninety-eight pounds nineteen shillings and two pence (46,698*l.* 19*s.* 2*d.*), not verified by the Exchequer and Audit Department.

Given under my hand this 15th day of January 1892,

(Signed) C. L. RYAN,
Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Allen Stoneham, Esq., Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade, Whitehall Gardens.

XVII.—TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

RUSSIA.

Note.—Poud = 36 lbs. avoirdupois. Gold Rouble = 100 copecks = 3*s.* 2*d.*

Regulations respecting Export of Wheat.

Sir R. B. D. Morier, Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 2nd April, says that an Imperial ukase, dated the 25th April, grants permission to export wheat flour from the ports of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azoff provided the exporters pledge themselves to import a corresponding amount in weight of wheat grain.

The object of this measure is to prevent the exporters of wheat flour from losing their trade with Constantinople, where Russian wheat flour to the amount of about a million pouds is annually purchased.

The execution of the guarantee given by the exporters to import a corresponding amount in weight of wheat grain is, it is understood, not likely to be enforced.

Tariff Classification of Elliman's Embrocation.

Sir R. B. D. Morier, Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 8th April, encloses a translation by Mr. Consul Michell of a circular issued by the Imperial Department of Customs, which provides that the importation into Russia of Elliman's royal embrocation will henceforward be allowed, and that it will be dutiable under section 113 of the tariff at a duty of 20 roubles gold per poud gross.

Classification of Articles in Customs Tariff.

The following decisions affecting the classification of articles under the Russian Customs tariff have recently been given by the Russian Customs authorities :—

Woollen or half-woollen woven bands purposely made for driving machinery under section 202 of tariff.—Duty, 13 copecks gold per pound Russian.

Hydrometers, independent of the materials of which made, indicated in section 167, under section 167, point 2.—Duty, 1 rouble 70 copecks gold per poud.

SWITZERLAND.

Classification of Articles in Customs Tariff.

Note.—Quintal = 220·4 lbs. avoirdupois. Franc = $9\frac{6}{10}d.$

The following decisions affecting the classification of articles in the Swiss Customs tariff were given by the Swiss Customs authorities in the month of March last:—

Oil of amber.—Category 13. Duty, 10 francs per quintal.

Sulphate of benzidine.—Category 46. Duty, 60 cents. per quintal.

Wooden shoes not in combination with other materials.—Category 155. Duty, 6 frs. per quintal.

Piecing leather, cut in the shape of heels, or of regular square pieces.—Category 190. Duty, 16 frs. per quintal.

Boots and shoes of cow, horse, or common hide leather, lined wholly or in part with leather of the same kind (the legs, for instance, of boots) are classified as common boots and shoes under Category 197 at the rate of 40 frs. per quintal. All boots and shoes, lined or trimmed, wholly or in part, with finer sorts of leather (kid, sheep, calf, &c., skin) or tissues (linen, cotton, &c.) are dutiable as superior boots and shoes under Category 198, at the rate of 60 frs. per quintal.

Shoes of wood, in combination with other materials.—Category 204. Duty, 40 frs. per quintal.

Electric accumulators of every kind and detached pieces of the same, such as plates, fitted or not, frames, &c.; telephones and detached parts of the same, such as boxes, registers, &c.—Category 215. Duty, 6 frs. per quintal.

Plates (frames) of lead, perforated, for electric accumulators, are removed from Category 240 to Category 215, and now pay a duty of 6 frs. per quintal.

Cash registers, with mechanism for the delivery of printed receipts.—Category 250. Duty, 4 frs. per quintal.

Files with a cut surface of 25 centimetres or less in length.—Category 292. Duty, 12 frs. per quintal.

Nematolithe.—Category 332. Free of duty.

Squares of cement with surface of glass.—Category 354. Duty, 2 frs. per quintal.

Railway tickets, printed.—Category 482. Duty, 25 frs. per quintal.

Cotton yarn in skeins, bleached, twisted with three or more ends.—Category 494. Duty, 12 frs. per quintal.

Ribbons and small wares, combined with real or imitation gold or silver thread.—Categories 522, 549, 605, and 606, with duties respectively of 45 frs., 50 frs., 65 frs., and 65 frs. per quintal.

Nets of every kind.—Category 552. Duty, 24 frs. per quintal.

Cocoa fibres, unworked or simply twisted.—Category 618. Duty, 30 cts. per quintal.

Brooms of rice, sorghum, &c., straw, with or without handle.—Category 620. Duty, 15 frs. per quintal.

Those articles presenting unquestionably by their condition the character of parts of lamps will pay duty under Category 715, at the rate of 25 frs. per quintal, as parts of finished lamps. Articles which may be adapted to any other use than the manufacture of lamps will pay duty according to material and condition, as manufactures of cast iron, zinc, &c., as articles of this kind may be mentioned: chains and rings, the outside covering of weights, counterweights used for balancing hanging lamps, which may be used as clock weights, hanging flower-vases, &c.

FRANCE.

Classification of Articles in Customs Tariff.

Note.—Kilog. = 2·204 lbs. avoirdupois. Franc = $9\frac{6}{10}d$.

The following decisions affecting the classification of articles in the new French Customs tariff have recently been given by the French Customs authorities:—

Myrobolams, properly so-called, dry, whole or crushed, and libi-dibi or divi-divi.—Category 156. Free of duty.

As moist cellulose pastes (Category 168) are considered such as contain at least 50 per cent. of water.—Duty, 50 cents. per 100 kilos.

Lead in lumps, raw, not argentiferous. The duty of 2 francs per 100 kilos. leviable under Category 222 is levied on non-argentiferous leads coming from Spain and Italy.

Dry colours composed of sulphate of barytes or any similar substances, coloured with a small quantity of a derivative from coal tar (3 per cent. at the most).—Category 310. Duty, 5 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Bone-glue, English glue, bone-size (product of a gelatinous base used in the preparation of tissues and specially of Amiens cotton velvet).—Category 313. Duty, 6 frs. per 100 kilos.

Bracelets of glass pearls and shells.—Category 358. Duty, 150 frs. per 100 kilos.

Coarse jute cloths immersed in bitumen for roofs, walls, &c., in which bitumen represents at least four-fifths of the total weight.—Category 394. Duty, 12 frs. per 100 kilos.

Belts for machinery of coarse buffalo hair or camel's hair waste.—Category 457. Duty, 30 frs. per 100 kilos.

Carpets, of jute, Jacquard loom made.—Category 401. Duty, 32 frs. per 100 kilos.

Cotton ribbons consisting of cotton threads fastened by means of a gummed coating, for the manufacture of basketware, small wares, &c.—Category 421. Duty as for passementerie of cotton, pure, unmixed.

Hat-bands, of waxed cloth lined with paper, sewn.—Category 430. Duty, 40 frs. per 100 kilos., increased with the surtax for making up of, 50 frs.

Coarse jute tissues, raw, gummed on tarred packing paper, pay duty as jute tissues, plain, unbleached, according to class for the tissue, and as other mechanical paper for the paper.

Cabas (hand-bags) of fibrous vegetable tissue, not distinguished, and of jute mixed with handles and ornaments of linen, hemp, or fibrous vegetables not mentioned.—Category 400 *bis*. Duty, 80 frs. per 100 kilos.

Cabas (hand-bags) of plaited jute tissues.—Category 400 *bis*. Duty, 80 frs. per 100 kilos.

Letter paper with printed or engraved headings.—Category 470. Duty, 40 frs. per 100 kilos.

Common cardboard in perforated sheets, and weighing before perforation at least 350 grammes to the square metre.—Category 463. Duty, 16 frs. per 100 kilos.

Photographs gummed on paper, card, or cardboard.—Category 469 *bis*. Free of duty.

Bands of steel for the manufacture of corset busks.—Category 562 *bis*. Duty, 25 frs. per 100 kilos.

Fire-extinguishing apparatus of iron plate, varnished or not.—Category 512 *bis*. Duties, from 10 to 15 frs. per 100 kilos. The hose and straps are dutiable separately.

Apparatus for oil presses, consisting of a double form of woven iron wire, provided in the inside with a thick tissue of goat hair and hemp. The iron constitutes about eight-tenths of the total weight.—Category 533. Duties from 12 to 35 frs. per 100 kilos.

Machines for bolting flours, for cleaning and sifting cereals, for regrinding groats by means of cylinder crushers of porcelain or cast iron.—Category 525 *bis*. Duty, 10 frs. per 100 kilos.

Oars and paddles of common wood.—Category 597. Duties, from 2 to 2·50 frs. per 100 kilos.

Pipes of porcelain with tube of wood and neck of nickel-plated copper.—Category 641. Duty, 60 frs. per 100 kilos.

Hats of cotton lace and plaits.—Category 627 *bis*. Duty, 50 cents. each.

Felts for upholstering and shoes of cotton and wool, cotton predominating.—Category 433. Duty, 124 frs. per 100 kilos.

Belts for machinery, of coarse cotton twist, with india-rubber.—Category 620. Duty, 70 frs. per 100 kilos.

SPAIN.

Regulations respecting Certificates of Origin.

In consequence of representations received by the Foreign Office, communications have recently passed between Her Majesty's Embassy at Madrid and the Spanish Customs authorities respecting the manner in which certificates of origin should be made out for British goods consigned to Spain.

To avoid all difficulties in the matter, it is desired by the Spanish authorities that certificates of origin for British goods should be signed by the exporter or agent dispatching the goods, in order that the Spanish Government should have his personal guarantee in support of the accuracy of the declaration contained in the certificate.

The certificate should be prepared in accordance with the prescribed form with the English and Spanish in two distinct columns.*

The descriptions of goods are stated to be often so general as to make it very difficult to identify the merchandise to which they refer. The descriptions should be in the exact terms of the number of the Spanish tariff under which the goods are classified for Customs purposes.

Should any difficulties arise with regard to certificates of origin for Spain necessitating a request to the Foreign Office to address representations to the Spanish Government, or in case of representations addressed direct to that Government, the port or ports to which the goods were dispatched should in every case be mentioned.

SERVIA.

Abolition of Three Custom Houses.

Mr. F. R. St. John, Her Majesty's Minister at Belgrade, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 20th April last, says that the *Official Journal* of Belgrade published on the 12th April a royal ukase to the effect that for reasons of economy the Custom houses of Nisch, Kragujevatz, and Jagodina are abolished, and that the duties hitherto leviable at the first-named place will be collected at Vranja (a small frontier town on the Salonica-Belgrade line of railway), and those hitherto leviable at the two last-named places will be collected at Belgrade.

This measure is undoubtedly calculated to reduce the expenses of collection, but it also diminishes the prospects of Nisch as a future trade centre.

CONGO FREE STATE.

Modification of Import Duties.

Mr. M. Gosselin, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Brussels, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 20th April, forwards an extract from the *Mouvement Géographique* for the 17th April, which states that by reason of the agreement of the Powers, a decree of the King of the Belgians, dated the 9th April, authorises the collection of import duties in the independent State of the Congo.

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* A copy of this form may be seen on application at the Commercial Department, Board of Trade, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.

Imports of every origin are subject to the payment of the following Customs duties:—

Arms, ammunition, powder, and salt pay 10 per cent. *ad valorem.*

Spirits pay 15 francs per hectolitre at 50 degrees of the centesimal alcoholmeter (the importation and sale of the alcoholic beverages remain prohibited in those parts of the State territory situated to the east of the Inkissi).

All other articles not specially mentioned, 6 per cent. *ad valorem.*

The following articles are free of import duty:—

Vessels and boats, steam machinery, mechanical apparatus used in industry or agriculture and tools for industrial or agricultural purposes, for a period of four years.

Locomotives, carriages and railway stock, whilst the lines are being constructed and until they are put in operation.

Scientific and mathematical instruments, as well as religious articles, clothing and baggage for the personal use of travellers and persons desirous of residing in the country.

Live animals of every kind.

Agricultural seeds.

All merchandise arriving on the territory of the Independent State is considered of foreign origin and, as such, subject to duty, unless it is stated, to the satisfaction of the authorities, that it originally comes from the State, or that it has already, on first importation into the Independent State, been charged with import duties.

Importations can only be effected at places where offices for the collection of import duties are established.

The importer must, at the importing office, send to the collector of duties a detailed declaration of the goods imported. European consignors may, in order to facilitate the work of the receiving agents in Africa, prepare the import declarations at the time that the vessels leave the European ports. They may procure printed forms, which will be delivered to them at the Department of Finance, 10, Rue de Namur, Bruxelles, at a cost of 5 francs per hundred.

United States.

Customs Decisions.

The following decisions respecting the construction to be given to Acts of Congress relating to the classification of articles in the Customs tariff and the application of the Customs law of the United States, have recently been given by the Customs authorities in that country:—

On the exportation of sweetened chocolate, manufactured by D. Ghiradella and Sons, in part from imported refined sugar, a drawback will be allowed equal in amount to the duty paid on

the imported sugar used in the manufacture, less the legal deduction of 1 per cent. The per-centage of sugar contained in the exported article shall be stated on each entry, and such statement shall be verified from time to time by analysis of samples taken whenever ordered by the collector; provided that in no case shall drawback be paid without such verification for sugar in excess of 60 per cent. of the net weight of said article.

The Treasury Department is informed that bullets in cartridges exported with benefit of drawback contain more or less tin, which pays no duty, and it is therefore deemed necessary for the proper ascertainment of the drawback on the imported lead used in the manufacture of such bullets that the exporters be required to state in their entries the proportions of lead and tin so used, and that such statements be verified from time to time by an analysis of samples taken from lots entered for export.

Calcspar prisms are dutiable at the rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 489, Act of October 1st, 1890.

On the exportation of canned fruits in syrup, prepared by the San José Fruit Packing Company, of San José, Cal., a drawback will be allowed on the imported refined sugar used in the manufacture of the syrup, less the legal deduction of 1 per cent. The quantity of the sugar so used shall be deemed equal to the quantity of cane sugar contained in the exported article, to be stated on each entry, together with the net weight of the contents of the packages, and such statements shall be verified from time to time by analysis and ascertainment of weight of samples, taken whenever ordered by the collector; provided that in no case shall drawback be paid without such verification for sugar in excess of 7·90 per cent. of said net weight.

On the exportation of cotton gin saws, manufactured by the Eagle Cotton Gin Company, of Bridgewater, Mass., in part from imported steel plates, a drawback will be allowed equal in amount to the duty paid on the imported plates used in the manufacture, less the legal deduction of 1 per cent.

On the exportation of incandescent electric light switches, manufactured by the Star Electric Company, of Philadelphia, Pa., from imported chinaware and domestic metal, a drawback will be allowed equal in amount to the duty paid on the imported china, less the legal deduction of 1 per cent.

On the exportation of nails and tacks, mannfactured by the Atlas Tack Corporation, of Boston, Mass., from imported scrap-steel or boiler-plate shearings, a drawback will be allowed equal in amount to the duty paid on the imported material used in the manufacture, less the legal deduction of 1 per cent.

Girdles, about 6 ft. long and 1½ ins. wide, made of silk in the form of open braided work and bound upon each side with a border composed of corded silk, attached to each end of the girdles being five pendants or tassels composed of wooden beads covered with silk, are dutiable at 50 per cent. *ad valorem*, under paragraph 414, as manufactures of silk not otherwise provided for.

Quilts, of which cotton is the component material of chief value, embroidered by hand or machinery, are dutiable at the rate of 60 per cent. *ad valorem* under paragraph 373, Act of October 1st, 1890.

PARAGUAY.

Customs Tariff.

The Customs tariff of Paraguay having recently undergone several modifications, the *Revue du Paraguay*, in its issue for January, gives the following as the rates of Customs duty now leviable on imports of foreign origin. Articles which are not otherwise mentioned pay 64 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following articles pay 89 per cent. *ad valorem*:—Alcohol, matches, fire-arms, playing cards, cigars, liqueurs, ammunition, perfumery, gunpowder (for sporting purposes), tobacco, and superior wines.

The following articles pay 79 per cent. *ad valorem*:—Carriages, &c., boots and shoes, ready-made goods (*confections*), fireworks, harness, furniture (not for emigrants), saddlery.

The following articles pay 69 per cent. *ad valorem*:—Beer, goods, and common table wines.

The following articles pay 49 per cent. *ad valorem*:—Jewellery, articles silver-plated, gilded, or ornamented, with precious stones.

The following article pays 29 per cent.:—Wheaten flour.

The following article pays 28 per cent.:—Zinc, corrugated, for roofing.

The following articles are admitted free of duty:—

Animals, silver in bar or powder, wooden or iron barrels, corn, empty bottles, geographical charts, coal, lime, Portland cement, angle-iron, bar-copper, empty demijohns, staves, bar-iron, fencing or telegraphic iron wire, fruits, globes, prints, agricultural and scientific instruments, books, locomotives for railways or tramways, machinery for industrial establishments and steamships, printing and lithographic material, immigrants' furniture, religious objects, gold in bar and powder, immigrants' tools, malting barley, plants, turn-tables, fresh fish, fire-pumps with accessories, gunpowder for mining purposes, rails, resin, wheels with or without axletrees for railways or tramways, seeds for agricultural purposes, soda, specifics for the treatment of animals, gas and water pipes of iron ungalvanised, measuring at least 0·65 millimetres, and mining drills.

BAHAMAS.

Modification in Shipping Charges.

In a despatch to the Colonial Office dated the 26th March, Sir A. Shea, Governor of the Bahamas, says that an Act has been passed in the present session of the Legislature, which exempts from port charges including compulsory pilotage all vessels visiting Nassau for orders or for purposes of repair.

XVIII.—CUSTOMS TARIFF OF JAMAICA.

The following is a statement of the rates of Customs duty now levied on articles imported into Jamaica :—

Articles.	Rates of Duty now leviable.	£	s.	d.
Ale, beer, and porter	Per gallon	0	0	6
Bacon	Per pound	0	0	1
Barley (not pearl barley)	Per bushel	0	0	4
Beef, wet, salted or cured	Per barrel of 200 lbs.	0	11	3
Beans	Per bushel	0	0	4
Bread or biscuits	Per 100 lbs.	0	3	0
Butter, oleomargarine, butterine, or other substitute for butter	Per lb.	0	0	1
Calavances	Per bushel	0	0	4
Candles, composition	Per lb.	0	0	2
Do., wax or spermaceti	„	0	0	2
Cheese	„	0	0	1
Cider and perry	Per gallon	0	0	6
Cocoa	Per 100 lbs.	0	10	0
Coffee, British Colonial	„	1	0	0
Corn, Indian	Per bushel	0	0	3
Fish, dried or salted	Per 100 lbs.	0	3	6
Do., smoked not otherwise enumerated or described	Per lb.	0	0	0½
Do., alewives, pickled	Per barrel of 200 lbs.	0	2	6
Do., herrings, pickled	„ „	0	2	6
Do., do., smoked	Per lb.	0	0	0¼
Do., mackerel, pickled	Per barrel of 200 lbs.	0	4	6
Do., pickled, not otherwise enumerated or described	„ „	0	4	6
Do., salmon, smoked	Per lb.	0	0	2
Do., do., wet or salted	Per barrel of 200 lbs.	0	10	6
Flour, rye	Per barrel of 196 lbs.	0	8	0
Do., wheat	„ „	0	8	0
Gunpowder	Per lb.	0	1	0
Hams	„	0	0	1
Indigo	„	0	0	3
Lard and its compounds	Per 21 lbs.	0	0	0¾
Matches, lucifers, and others	Per gross of 12 dozen boxes, each box to contain 100 sticks, and boxes containing any greater or lesser quantity to be charged in proportion	0	5	0
Meat, salted or cured	Per barrel of 200 lbs.	0	15	0
Meal, not wheat meal	Per barrel of 196 lbs.	0	1	6
Oats	Per bushel	0	0	3
Oil other than petroleum and cotton-seed oil	Per gallon	0	0	9
Peas (not being split peas)	Per bushel	0	0	4
Pork, wet, salted, or cured	Per barrel of 200 lbs.	0	11	3
Petroleum and its products, crude or refined	Per gallon	0	0	6¾
Rice	Per 100 lbs.	0	3	0
Do., undressed	Per bushel	0	1	0
Salt	Per 100 lbs.	0	1	0
Sausages, dried or pickled	Per lb.	0	0	2

Articles.	Rates of Duty now leviable.	£	s.	d.
Soap	Per 100 lbs.	0	5	6
Spirits, brandy	Per gallon	0	10	0
Do., gin	„	0	10	0
Do., rum, the produce of, and imported from British Possessions	„	0	10	0
Do., whisky	„	0	10	0
Spirits of wine, alcohol, and all other spirits, cordials, or spirituous compounds	„	0	10	0
Sugar, unrefined	Per 100 lbs.	0	10	0
Tea	Per lb.	0	1	0
Tobacco, manufactured, including cavendish	„	0	1	0
Do., unmanufactured	„	0	0	6
Do., cigars	„	0	5	0
Tongues, salted or cured	Per barrel of 200 lbs.	0	15	0
Wheat	Per bushel	0	0	6
Wines, in bulk and in bottle	Per gallon	0	2	6
Wood	Per every 1,000 ft. of pitch pine lumber in rough or prepared for buildings, by superficial measurement of 1 in. thick	0	9	0
Wood	Per every 1,000 ft. of white pine lumber or other lumber, by superficial measurement of 1 in. thick	0	9	0
Do., shingles, Cypress, more than 12 ins. in length	Per 1,000	0	6	0
Do., do., Wallaba	„	0	6	0
Do., Boston chips, and all shingles not otherwise enumerated or described	„	0	4	0
On all other goods, wares, merchandise, and effects of every description not otherwise enumerated	12½ per cent. *ad valorem*.			
And after these rates for any greater or less quantity of such goods respectively.				

The following is a list of exemptions:—

Animals, alive, and poultry.
Apparatus and appliances used for generating, storing, or conducting electricity.
Asbestos and tar paper for roofing.
Beef, smoked and dried.
Beef and pork preserved in cans, not being wet, salted, or cured.
Belting for machinery of leather, canvas, or india-rubber.
Birds.
Boats and lighters.
Books bound and unbound, pamphlets, newspapers, and printed matter in all languages.
Bones and horns.
Bottles of glass or stoneware.
Bran, middlings and shorts.
Brick (not Bath bricks).
Bridges of iron or wood or of both combined.
Brooms, brushes, and whisks of broom straw.
Bullion and coin.
Candles of tallow.
Carts, waggons, cars, and barrows, with or without springs, of all descriptions, not being such as are ordinarily used as vehicles of pleasure.
Clocks, and parts thereof.
Coal and coke.
Cotton seed and its products, to include meal, mealcake, oil, and cottolene.
Cotton wool.
Crucibles and pots of all kinds for melting metals.

Diamonds.
Drawings, paintings, engravings, lithographs, and photographs.
Drugs, medicines, and medicinal preparations of all kinds, including patent or proprietary medicines.
Dyewoods.
Eggs.
Fertilisers of all kinds, natural and artificial.
Fish, fresh or on ice.
Fishing apparatus of all kinds.
Flax.
Fruits and vegetables fresh or dried, when not canned, tinned, or bottled.
Gas fixtures, including pipes and stoves, and all apparatus for generating, measuring, or storing gas.
Gold and silver coin and bullion.
Guano and other manures.
Hand machines for preparing fibre or for spinning cotton or wool.
Hay and straw for forage.
Hemp.
Hides, raw.
Houses of wood, complete.
Hydraulic presses.
Ice.
Implements, utensils and tools for agriculture, including axes, bill-hooks, cutlasses, diggers, forks, grass knives, hatchets, hoes, picks, shovels, and spades.
India-rubber and gutta-percha goods, including waterproof clothing made wholly or in part thereof.
Iron, galvanised.
Iron, for roofing, doors and shutters, and every kind of iron doors and shutters.
Lamps and lanterns not exceeding 10*s.* each in value as defined in section 24 of Law 18 of 1877.
Leeches.
Lime of all kinds.
Locomotives, railway rolling stock, rails, railway ties, and all materials and appliances for railways and tramways.
Malt dust.
Maps.
Marble or alabaster in the rough or squared, worked or carved, for building purposes or monuments.
Meat, fresh.
Mess plate and furniture, band instruments for the use of the army and navy, on the certificate of the military or naval commanding officer.
Mills, whether they be for grinding canes, paint, coffee, corn, or grain of any kind, or for sawing boards, raising water, or such as are set in motion by steam, horse, wind, or water power, and all parts of the said mills.
Molasses.
Oil cakes, whole or in powder, and other prepared food for cattle and animals.
Oysters preserved in cans.
Paper of all kinds, whether for printing writing, wrapping, or packing or othe purpose, to include envelopes and bags of paper.
Patent fuel.
Pans for boiling sugar, whether of copper or iron.
Photographic apparatus and chemicals.
Pipes for conveying fluids.
Printers' ink, all colours.
Printing presses, types, rules, spaces, and all accessories for printing.
Pumps for raising water.
Quicksilver.
Railway truck wheels.
Resin, tar, pitch, and turpentine.
Salt rock.
Sarsaparilla.
Sewing machines and all parts and accessories thereof.
Shooks, tierces, puncheon and hogshead, and all descriptions of shooks, also tierces, hogsheads, and casks, including box shooks.
Slates.
Soda, ash or sub-soda.
Specimens illustrative of natural history, mineralogy, and geology.
Starch of Indian corn or maize.
Steam and power engines, and machines, machinery, and apparatus, whether stationary or portable, worked by power or by hand, for agriculture, irrigation, mining, the arts and industries of all kinds, and all necessary parts and appliances for the erection or repair thereof, or for the communication of motive power thereto.
Steam boilers and steam pipes.
Stills, or any part of a still.
Sugar, refined.
Sulphur.
Tallow and animal greases, grease, or slush.
Tan barks of all kinds, whole or ground.
Telegraph wire, telegraphic, telephonic, and electrical apparatus, and appliances of all kinds for communication or illumination.
Tiles, marble and earthen, as well as paving stones.
Tongues, smoked and dried.
Tortoiseshell.
Tow.
Trees, plants, vines, and seeds, and grain of all kinds for propagation or cultivation.
Turtle.
Varnish, not containing spirits.
Wall paper.
Watches and parts thereof.
Water pipes, of all classes, materials, and dimensions, and water metres.
Wax, bees'.
Wire fencing, iron standards, and also tomb railings.
Wire for fences, with the hooks, staples, nails, and the like appliances or fastening the same.

Wood hoops.

Wood staves and headings, red or white, oak or ash.

Yeast cake and baking powders.

Zinc, tin, and lead in sheets.

All packages containing goods subject to the *ad valorem* duty imposed by this Law.

The packages or coverings in which any articles imported into the island are contained, being only the usual or proper packages or coverings.

Provisions and stores imported for the use of Her Majesty's army and navy and consigned by bill of lading to the officer at the head of Her Majesty's commissariat, the military storekeeper, or the naval commanding officer of the island on the production of the bills of lading and certificate of such officer that they have been solely imported for use of the army or navy aforesaid.

Provisions, wines, spirits, and malt liquors imported for the use of the naval staff and naval messes in this island consigned by bills of lading to any naval officer or the president of a naval mess on the production of the bills of lading and the certificate of the officer, such certificate being countersigned by the officer commanding the naval forces, that they have been solely imported for the use of such officer or naval mess, and on an undertaking that they should not be sold in the island without special permission of the collector of Customs, such permission to be given only on payment of the duty.

Provisions and stores imported by the local government for the public service on the certificate of the Revenue Commissioner.

All arms, ammunition, appointments, and other public stores and all uniforms and musical instruments imported for the use of the militia (sec. 60, Law 35 of 1879).

Articles of naval, military, and civil uniform for the personal use of the proprietor.

All goods imported by the Governor for the use of his household or for himself as Governor.

XIX.—NEW CUSTOMS TARIFF OF ST. VINCENT.

The following is a statement of the rates of Customs duty now levied under the amended tariff of St. Vincent passed in accordance with the recent commercial arrangement with the United States :—

Articles.	Rates of Duty now leviable.	£	s.	d.
Boots and shoes, made wholly or in part of leather	5 per cent. *ad val.*			
Bread	Per barrel	0	9	6
Bricks, tiles, and slates	Per 1,000	0	8	0
Butter	Per lb.	0	0	1
Candles, all other than tallow	Per 100 lbs.	0	10	0
Cheese	Per lb.	0	0	0¼
Corn	Per bushel	0	0	3
Cordage	Per 100 lbs.	0	5	0
Coffee	„	0	5	0
Cattle—horse	Per head	2	0	0
Do., do. under 14 hands	„	1	0	0
Do., mules	„	0	15	0
Dogs	„	0	10	0
Flour, wheaten	Per barrel	0	3	0
Do., meal not wheaten	„	0	1	6
Fish, smoked, dried, or salted	Per 100 lbs.	0	1	0
Do., pickled	Per barrel not exceeding 200 lbs.	0	1	0
Grain	Per bushel	0	0	4
Hams and bacon hams	Per lb.	0	0	0½
Headings	Per 1,000 pieces	0	12	6
Lard	Per lb.	0	0	0¼
Meat, beef, and pork, salted or cured	Per barrel not exceeding 200 lbs.	0	9	4½
Metals, iron, galvanised	Per lb.	0	0	0½
Do., do., not galvanised	„	0	0	0¾
Matches	Per gross of boxes not exceeding 100 in each box.	0	0	6
Malt liquors in wood	Per hogshead	0	15	0
Do., do., in bottles	Per doz. reputed quarts.	0	1	0
Oil, kerosine	Per gallon	0	0	1⅞
Do., all other	„	0	0	6
Oil meal, meal, or oil cake not produce of cotton seed	Per puncheon not exceeding 750 lbs.	0	6	3
Oleomargarine	5 per cent. *ad val.*			
Paints and paint stuffs	Per 100 lbs.	0	2	6
Rice	Per lb.	0	0	0⅛
Shingles, cedar and pine	Per 1,000	0	2	0
Do., all other kinds	„	0	4	0
Shooks and packs	Per bundle not exceeding 35 staves.	0	0	3
Soap	Per lb.	0	0	0½
Spirits, brandy	Per proof gallon	0	6	6
Do., other	„	0	5	6
All strengths above proof in proportion for every higher degree of strength.				

Articles.	Rates of Duty now leviable.	£	s.	d.
Spirits, liqueurs, cordials, and bitters	Per gallon	0	6	6
Sugar, Muscovado	Per 100 lbs.	0	1	6
Do., crystallised	„	0	3	0
Do., refined	„	0	4	0
Tobacco, manufactured	Per lb.	0	1	0
Do., unmanufactured	„	0	0	6
Do., long cigars, commonly called "Long Toms"	„	0	1	0
Do., cigars and cigarettes of all other kinds	„	0	3	0
Tallow, mill and cart grease	„	0	0	0½
Tea	„	0	0	6
Wood; spruce and white pine	Per 1,000 ft.	0	6	3
Do., pitch pine	„	0	9	4½
Do., all other kinds	„	0	12	6
Wood hoops	Per 1,000 pieces	0	6	3
Wines	5 per cent. *ad val.*			
All and every sort and description of goods, wares, and merchandise not above enumerated and not exempted	10 per cent. *ad val.*			

The following is a list of exemptions:—

Animals.—Asses, swine, goats, sheep, horned cattle, and horses for breeding purposes.

Bullion, coin, and diamonds.

Cocoa.

Ice, fresh meats, fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, and poultry.

Machinery intended to be worked by water, wind, steam, cattle, or horse-power. Stills and apparatus thereto belonging, and sugar taiches and clarifiers.

Manures.

Naval stores, viz., tar, pitch, resin, and crude turpentine.

Specimens, illustrative of natural history, seeds, bulbs, and roots of flowering plants and shrubs.

Pictures, music, manuscripts, and printed books and papers (not including unused account-books or printed forms or labels).

Baggage, apparel, and professional apparatus of passengers.

Clothing, accoutrements; materials, stores, and supplies imported for the use of Her Majesty's army and navy or of any officer thereof upon full pay stationed in this Government.

All articles imported solely for building repairs, or use of or in any church or other edifice set apart for Christian public worship, provided that upon entry of such articles a certificate be produced, signed by the Colonial Secretary, showing that proof has been given to the satisfaction of the Governor that such articles have been imported and are necessary for such uses and not otherwise.

All articles imported by or for the officer Administering the Government of this colony for his own use, provided that a certificate be produced with every entry of such articles showing them to be for such use.

All articles imported for the public service of this Government, provided that the same be certified by the Colonial Secretary to be for such service.

Beef, including tongues, smoked and dried.

Beef and pork, preserved, in cans.

Belting for machinery, of leather, canvas, or india-rubber.

Boats and lighters.

Books, bound or unbound, pamphlets, newspapers, and printed matter in all languages.

Bones and horns.

Bottles of glass or stoneware.

Bran middlings and shorts.

Bridges of iron or wood, or of both combined.

Brooms, brushes, and whisks of broom straw.

Candles, tallow.

Carts, waggons, cars, and barrows, with or without springs, for ordinary roads and agricultural uses; not including vehicles of pleasure.

Clocks, mantel or wall.

Copper, bronze, zinc, and lead articles, plain and nickel-plated, for industrial and domestic uses, and for building.

Cotton-seed and its products.
Crucibles and melting-pots of all kinds.
Eggs.
Fish, fresh or on ice, and salmon and oysters in can.
Fishing apparatus of all kinds.
Fruits and vegetables, fresh and dried, when not canned, tinned, or bottled.
Gas fixtures and pipes.
Hay and straw for forage.
Houses of wood, complete.
India-rubber and gutta-percha goods, including waterproof clothing made wholly or in part thereof.
Implements, utensils, and tools for agriculture, exclusive of cutlasses and forks.
Lamps and lanterns.
Lime of all kinds.
Locomotives, railway rolling stock, rails, railway ties, and all materials and appliances for railways and tramways.
Marble and alabaster in the rough, or squared, worked or carved, for building purposes or monuments.
Medicinal extracts and preparations of all kinds, including proprietary or patent medicines, but exclusive of quinine, or preparations of quinine, opium, gange, and bhang.
Paper of all kinds for printing.
Paper of wood or straw for wrapping and packing, including surface-coated or glazed.
Photographic apparatus and chemicals.
Printers' ink, all colours.
Printing presses, types, rules, spaces, and all printing accessories.
Quicksilver.
Salt.
Sewing machines and all parts and accessories thereof.
Shipbuilding materials and accessories of all kinds, when used in the construction, equipment, or repair of vessels or boats of any kind, except rope and cordage of all kinds, including wire rope.
Starch of Indian corn or maize.
Steam and power engines and machines, machinery and apparatus, whether stationary or portable, worked by power or by hand, for agriculture, irrigation, mining, the arts and industries of all kinds, and all necessary parts and appliances for the erection or repair thereof, or the communication of motive power thereto.
Steam boilers and steam pipes.
Sulphur.
Tan bark of all kinds, whole or ground.
Telegraph wire, telegraphic, telephonic and electrical apparatus, and appliances of all kinds for communication or illumination.
Tombstones and memorial tablets.
Trees, plants, vines, and seeds, and grains of all kinds for propagation or cultivation.
Turpentine.
Varnish not containing spirits.
Wall papers.
Watches, when not cased in gold or silver, and watch movements uncased.
Water pipes of all classes, materials, and dimensions.
Wire for fences, with the hooks, staples, nails, and the like appliances for fastening the same.
Yeast cake and baking powders.
Zinc, tin, and lead, in sheets, asbestos, and tar paper for roofing.

XX.—EXTRACTS FROM DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPORTS.

Tenders for Construction of a Bridge across the Neva.

Mr. J. Michell, Her Majesty's Consul at St. Petersburg, in a report to the Foreign Office, dated the 26th April, forwards the following translation from the Russian of the programme of the competition for plans of a permanent bridge across the river Neva at St. Petersburg:—

The St. Petersburg town council notifies that it is prepared to receive competitive plans for a bridge across the Great Neva on the following conditions:—

1. Detailed technical data, plan of locality and generally all particulars for the preparation of a plan of the bridge will be supplied on demand to all who would wish to take part in the competition, commencing from 28th April (10th May) by the Executive Commission for the construction of the bridge, whose office is in the building of the town hall. It is proposed to assign 6,000,000 r. for the construction of the bridge.

2. Plans for the construction of the bridge must be presented to the Executive Commission not later than December 2nd (14th), 1892.

3. Each plan must be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the christian and surname of the author, and this envelope must bear on it the same device or mark as that which will be placed on each sheet of the plan.

4. From among the plans presented, and which will satisfy the conditions of the competition, three of the best in merit will be chosen, and for these the following premiums will be given:—(1.) 6,000 r. (2.) 3,000 r. (3.) 1,500 r.

5. The plans which have been awarded premiums become the property of the town council of St. Petersburg, those that will not have gained any premium will, with the sealed envelopes with the names and devices of their authors, be returned to such authors on the production of the receipts acknowledging the presentation of the plans for competition.

Plans not reclaimed in the course of six months become the property of the town.

6. The names of the successful competitors will be made public through the medium of the press.

7. Independently of the awarded premiums the Commission reserves to itself the right of acquiring one or several of the unapproved plans against a payment of 1,500r. for each.

8. All the plans presented for competition will be exhibited in the halls of the town council during the course of two weeks.

9. The award of a premium will not entitle the recipient of the same to carry out the building of the bridge.

10. Both Russians and foreigners will be allowed to take part in the competition on condition, however, that the inscriptions, explanations, statements, and calculations of the stability of bridge, and of the cost of the necessary materials and work for the construction of the same, shall be presented in the Russian or French languages.

The Game Laws of Sweden.

The Foreign Office has received from Her Majesty's Minister at Stockholm the following translation of a Royal Ordinance recently issued making alterations in the regulations concerning the killing of elk, and prohibiting entirely the killing of Canadian deer, and in certain districts the killing of roe deer for some years to come.

"His Majesty has been graciously pleased to direct:

"That section 12 of the Game Regulations, issued on the 21st October 1864, according to the wording thereof, as laid down by the Proclamation of the 15th February 1878, shall hereby be altered, and the killing of elk shall accordingly be prohibited from the 16th September to the 31st August inclusive. There shall, nevertheless, be no alteration in the Proclamation of the 21st March 1891 prohibiting the killing of elk in the territory of Noorbotten and in the territory of Kronoberg, as likewise in the southern portion of the territory of Kalman during certain years; nor shall there be any alterations in the Proclamations of the 7th February 1890 and the 25th of March 1891, prohibiting the taking and killing of yearling elk calves during certain years in the territories of Kopparberg and Upsala, and in the territories of Noorbotten, Vesterbotten, Jämtland, Vestmanland, Gefleborg, and Ostergötland until further notice; further, there shall be no alteration in the clause contained in the Proclamation of the 11th June 1887, whereby the killing of elk is permitted during the month of September in the parts of the Royal parks of Halle and Hunneberg, belonging to the territory of Elfsborg.

"That the killing of Canadian deer shall be prohibited until further notice.

"That the killing of roe deer shall be prohibited in the territory of Vestmanland until the 1st of September 1895, and in the territory of Gotland until the 1st September 1897."

Danish Maritime Code.

Sir F. C. E. Denys, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Copenhagen, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 5th April, says that the new Danish Maritime Code finally passed the Landsting on the 28th March, and now only awaits the royal sanction before becoming law.

As far back as 1872, a commission of Danish jurists and experts in maritime commercial law was appointed for the purpose of compiling a Code, but owing to various causes its work was interrupted. In 1882 a fresh commission was appointed, and delegates from Denmark, Sweden, and Norway held meetings with a view to the framing of a Code which might be common to the three countries.

The law thus drafted has now passed the Swedish and Danish Chambers, but is still under discussion in the Norwegian Lower House.

A special interest attaches to the new Code, as it is the first Danish maritime law which has been enacted since that of Christian V. in 1683.

In a report, dated the 22nd April, Mr. A. P. Inglis, Her Majesty's Consul at Copenhagen, encloses a translation by Mr. Vice-Consul Schmidt, of Elsinore, of those sections of the new Code dealing with general average, to which Mr. Inglis prefixes a short introduction enumerating the principal Danish sea-laws which have preceded the present Code.

International Industrial Exhibition at Bordeaux.

In his annual report to the Foreign Office, dated the 7th March, Mr. W. Ward, Her Majesty's Consul at Bordeaux, says that, as has already been announced, an international and intercolonial exhibition of products of agriculture, industry, and commerce, and of the fine arts and artistic industries, as also of objects connected with educational, social, and economical institutions, will be held at Bordeaux in the year 1894 under the auspices of the Philomatic Society, an association which for many years already has achieved successful results in promoting the interests of the commercial and industrial classes of this district. The exhibition of 1894, in which, owing to the great importance of the wine trade and production in this part of France, this branch of commerce and industry will naturally be the prominent feature, will be the thirteenth organised here by the Philomatic Society; the last and most important exhibition having been held in 1882, and having been very successful, for about 6,000 exhibitors took part in the same, and it was visited by about 750,000 persons.

It is confidently expected that the French Government will accord its patronage, and also some material assistance towards the enterprise of 1894, and many official and private bodies and institutions in this part of the country have already promised their participation; and foreign Governments, as well as the public in foreign countries will also, it is trusted here, take an active interest in the undertaking. Considering the prominent share taken by British trade in the general commerce of this district, it may be hoped that the representatives of trade and

industry of the United Kingdom and in other parts of the British Empire will not be backward in making use of this occasion for further extending the commercial relations between Great Britain and her colonies and this part of France.—(*No.* 1004, *Foreign Office Annual Series.*)

Bordeaux Wine Trade.

Writing with regard to the wine trade of Bordeaux in 1891, Mr. William Ward, Her Majesty's Consul at that port, says:—

A considerable decrease took place last year in the aggregate quantities of wine shipped from Bordeaux compared with 1890. This decrease was chiefly due to the great falling off in the shipments from Bordeaux to the Argentine Republic and to Uruguay, but a diminution is also apparent in the shipments to the United Kingdom, to Russia, Spain, the Netherlands, the United States of America, Mexico, and to British India. On the other hand, there was an increase in the exportations to certain other countries, viz., to Germany, Belgium, Sweden and Norway, Denmark and Brazil.

The total exportations of wine, both in wood and in bottle, from Bordeaux in 1891 amounted to 18,947,303 galls., against 23,075,074 gallons exported during the preceding 12 months.

Of the shipments of wine in 1891, 17,332,744 galls. were in wood and 1,614,558 in bottle. The corresponding figures for 1890 were 21,287,178 galls. and 1,787,896 galls. The United Kingdom in 1891 took 3,414,972 galls. in wood and 705,474 galls. in bottle; Germany, 3,614,820 galls. in wood and 68,068 galls. in bottle; Belgium, 2,059,420 galls. in wood and 55,814 galls. in bottle; the Netherlands, 1,494,262 galls. in wood and 64,350 galls. in bottle; and the Argentine Republic, 2,215,246 galls. in wood and 53,240 galls. in bottle.

Compared with the average annual exportations of wine from this port during the last 10 years, which was about 26,000,000 galls., last year's exportations accordingly show a diminution of no less than about 7,000,000 galls.

The cause of the large outfall in the shipments to the River Plate which have taken place during last year and the year 1890 has, it is hardly necessary to observe, been the troubled political and commercial condition of that part of South America. The reasons for the diminution last year in the shipments to the United Kingdom and to some other European countries are less easily to be explained.

With regard more particularly to the share taken by the United Kingdom in the wine export trade from Bordeaux, it may be observed that the same has, with the intermission of one year, been gradually diminishing in importance during the last 10 years, and this remark applies to wines exported both in wood and in bottles, the latter representing, of course, chiefly wines of a superior class. The shipments from Bordeaux to the United

Kingdom last year amounted in fact to 1,500,000 galls. less than the shipments in 1881. A slight rise having taken place in the exportations from hence during 1890, it was hoped with some confidence by the Bordeaux merchants that this increased demand in the English market would be followed by a further rise last year, but this has not been the case. The chief cause of the diminished consumption of French red wines in the United Kingdom is doubtless to be found in the greatly increased consumption of spirits, and (in a minor degree) of French sparkling white wines. A further cause has probably been the rise in price during the last decade of good claret for daily drinking, and the simultaneous flooding of the English market with the coarse red wines of Spain and Italy, both of which circumstances have led many persons at home to give up drinking French claret altogether.

Considering, however, that there is now again a large stock of very good wine at Bordeaux, and that every year which passes brings the 1887, 1888, and 1889 clarets a stage further towards their maturity, whilst the 1890 vintage will soon be ready for bottling, so that a fair choice may be made amongst the products of these four years, it is not unlikely that a rise in the demand for Bordeaux wines in the United Kingdom will soon take place again when this fact becomes better known.

I would take the liberty, in concluding these remarks, to observe that whilst it is, doubtless, and always has been, advisable, in purchasing Bordeaux wines, to be careful in the selection of the firm supplying them, it ought to be borne in mind that even the best wines, unless they are judiciously handled until the moment of drinking, *i.e*, properly stored, bottled, and decanted, are most likely to turn out a thorough disappointment for the consumer.—(*No.* 1004, *Foreign Office Annual Series.*)

Mr. Ward, in a report to the Foreign Office dated the 24th April, says that the prospects of this year's vintage in South-Western France have been most seriously prejudiced through the disastrous effects of the frost which prevailed in this part of Europe about the middle of April, and which, more especially during the night of April 19th to 20th (when the thermometer descended to 23° Fahr. below freezing point) caused widespread havoc among the vineyards of the Gironde and adjacent departments by the destruction of at least one-half or two-thirds of all the young vine buds.

The districts producing the so-called "small wines" (*petits vins*), including those parts situated near the banks of the rivers Garonne and Dordogne which, as a rule, escape the effects of frost, have, it appears, suffered more especially. In Médoc the vines in the lower districts (Bas-Médoc), with the exception of a few vineyards around St. Christoly and Valeyrac, have been frozen throughout, and in the higher districts (*Haut Médoc*), particularly at Moulis, Listrac, Pouyeaux, Castelnau, and Cussac, the destruction has likewise been great. The vineyards of the Graves district, as well as nearly all of those comprised in the

"white wine" district (Sauterne and others), the vines of the Cotes, and of the country around Blaye, Bourg, St. Foy, Bergerac, &c., have all been very seriously damaged.

Very few vineyard proprietors in the Bordeaux part of France have in fact escaped more or less considerable loss, and there are not a few who consider themselves comparatively fortunate at not having lost more than half of this year's prospective crop of grapes. Should not, during the next few months, a combination of quite exceptionally fortunate circumstances favour the development of the small proportion of grapes which have remained intact during the last fortnight so as to insure the production of, at all events, a certain quantity of wine next autumn, then the total loss caused by this (for the present season) unprecedently hard frost for the vineyard owners of South-Western France will certainly be a very heavy one indeed.

For consumers, as well as for the wine-merchants of Bordeaux, it must under the circumstances be regarded as fortunate that there is a very considerable stock of wine of former vintages available in the market, though, in view of the more or less considerable outfall in the production of the present year, the prices of the wines first mentioned will doubtless before long experience a rise.

Insurance Business in Italy.

A communication, dated the 8th April, has been received at the Board of Trade from the Foreign Office, enclosing a copy of a memorandum showing the formalities necessary to enable a foreign insurance company to establish a branch in Italy. The following is extracted from the memorandum in question :—

A foreign company intending to establish a branch in Italy must exhibit at the tribunal of the place where the agency is to be founded—

1. The memorandum, the articles of association, and a certificate of the incorporation of the company.
2. The resolution under which the board of directors of the company resolved to open a branch in Italy, and that by which the director of the society's business in Italy is appointed.
3. A certified copy of the last balance-sheet of the company.
4. The power of attorney appointing the company's representative in Italy.

These documents must all be attested by an Italian consular officer residing in Great Britain and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, and then translated and registered, and the taxes paid.

When these documents are produced, the tribunal must be petitioned through a lawyer to order that the transcriptions, publications, and notices required by law may be effected. The decree having been obtained, two copies of the same and four

copies of all the other documents must be taken to the chancery of the tribunal to execute these transcriptions, publications, &c., after which an advertisement must be inserted in the official journal of the province as to the establishment of the agency.

A copy of all these documents must be sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce, to be published in the *Bolletino della Società.*

The balance-sheet of the company must be deposited yearly in certified copy and translation at the tribunal and at the Ministry as above.

The articles of the Italian Commercial Code referring to the above formalities are Nos. 230, 231, and 232.

The registration fee payable on the capital is at the rate of 5 frs. on the first 1,000 frs., and 1 fr., or rather, with a surtax, 1 fr. and 20 centimes per mil. on the remainder. This fee is legally leviable, it would appear, on the subscribed capital of the company only, and not on the amount of the nominal capital, as has been claimed by the Italian Government.

The formalities might cost about 500 frs.

The Foreign Trade of Italy.

In a despatch to the Foreign Office dated the 11th April, Mr. H. N. Dering, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, forwards the official statistics of Italian foreign trade for the months of January and February 1892, together with a translation of an analysis of the figures which appeared in the *Economista d'Italia.* The following particulars are extracted from the translation in question:—

The imports, exclusive of precious metals, amounted to 156,501,476 lire; the exports, also, exclusive of precious metals, reached the sum of 143,314,334 lire, making a difference of only 13,187,142 lire. If the proportion between exports and imports is maintained during the whole year, the excess of the imports over the exports would not reach 80,000,000 lire. One must go back ten years to find a smaller difference than this (75,000,000). Since 1883 the so-called balance of trade has always been less favourable. In the four years, 1883–86, the imports exceeded the exports by 247,000,000 lire per annum on an average; in 1887 the difference reached the formidable figure of 603,000,000 lire; in the four years, 1888–91, the average difference had risen to 350,000,000 lire. Were we dealing with France, or even more with Great Britain, countries which receive a quantity of goods in payment of the interest on capital invested, this phenomenon would arouse no anxiety, but since Italy does not boast of loans, but has rather large debts, we ought to congratulate ourselves on the development promised in our international exchange.

What are the causes of the above facts? In the first place, the good grain harvest. The last two months we have only imported

49,230 tons of wheat, whereas in former years there was a monthly importation of 80,000. The increase in wine distilling, encouraged perhaps to excess by recent legislation, has largely diminished the import of foreign alcohol. The so-called "building" crisis and the slackening of public works has tended to diminish the need for timber and iron. The cotton industry, which is thought to be threatened by the commercial treaty with Switzerland, is largely diminishing its purchase of raw material. Less coal also is bought than formerly.

On the other hand, good harvests have tended to increase the exports.

The increase in the silk trade was enormous. The exports during the first two months of the current year amount to 7,918 quintals, as compared with 4,966 quintals in the same two months in 1891.

Railway Rates in Turkey.

Mr. J. E. Blunt, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, in a report to the Foreign Office, dated the 7th April, says that the rates hitherto charged by the Salonica railway on its local traffic from Salonica to Gratsko, Uscup, and Comanova, have been considerably reduced in a new special tariff which came into operation on the 1st April.

The special tariff as regards classification of goods and scale of rates charged is more or less assimilated to the International tariff in force on the direct traffic between Turkey, Bulgaria, Servia, and Austria-Hungary, and is only applied to goods carried from Salonica to the above-named three stations on the line, and not to goods carried from these and other stations down to Salonica.

It will enable the Salonica railway to compete with the Servian railway for the traffic to the Albanian and Macedonian markets, and prove beneficial to the import trade at Salonica.

The following table shows the reductions on the previous rates charged:—

Per one ton for the whole distance to stations of:—

———	Old Rates.	New Rates.	Reduction.
	Piastres.	Piastres.	Per Cent.
Gratsko - - -	15—52	11—44	26·28
Uscup - - -	22—25	16—59	25·44
Comanova - -	25—48	19—27	24·37

Openings for Capital in Mining Enterprise in Bulgaria.

Mr. N. R. O'Conor, Her Majesty's Consul-General at Sofia, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated the 15th April, encloses an extract from a letter which he had received a few days previously from Mr. Richards, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Bourgas, giving an interesting account of a visit which he lately paid to the site of an ancient copper mine in the Bakirli Hills, opposite the port of Bourgas. Mr. Richard's account of his visit reads as follows :—

"The following is a short account of an expedition I recently made with some officers of H.M.S. 'Cockatrice' to the mountain, or rather hill, of Bakirli, which lies on the opposite or southern side of the bay, its foot being about four miles from the coast at a point which is about half-way between Chingané Bay on the west and Sozopoli Bay on the east. The object of our trip was to discover and examine an old copper mine which is known to have been worked centuries ago, probably in the Roman times, but of the exact whereabouts of which the natives seemed to have the very vaguest ideas. We landed from the 'Cockatrice' in the small bay to the westward of Cape Akin, at a point which is about a quarter of a mile distant from the village of Aghio Nikola, and after a somewhat tedious climb of 2½ hours, reached the top of the Bakirli Dagh. The rocks on the extreme summit consisted of amygdaloidal trap, while on the north-east side of the hill we came upon some fine-grained basalt; further on we discovered diorite, and again on the south-east side we found a species of volcanic conglomerate or tufa. As there were no signs of the mine here, we proceeded down the south-east slope, and when about 200 feet down came upon two bare grass mounds which on being dug into disclosed the refuse of a copper mine, from amongst which I collected several specimens. The heaps consisted principally of refuse, *i.e.*, stones containing copper in the vein, which probably had not been deemed worth extracting, little or no scoriæ being found. We found a large piece of malachite embedded in a boulder, which on being extracted proved to be of a fine quality. Unfortunately it was broken up during the course of extraction. I need hardly say that if malachite were found here in considerable quantities, as seems not unlikely, considering that we found the piece mentioned without any difficulty, the value of the mine would be considerably increased, seeing that malachite is worth 100*l.* the ton, whereas the present value of copper does not exceed 60*l.* for the same quantity. These mounds are not very extensive, and appear to have been worked in former times. On our way back to the top we came upon traces of much larger workings, the refuse heaps extending some 100 feet down the mountain side. Unfortunately, owing to the lateness of the hour, we were unable to make any more search for the mine itself, but there can be no doubt that it is in the vicinity of these latter workings, which appear not to have been touched for over 500 years.

"The method of getting the ore down to the water's edge occupied our attention somewhat, as from the appearance of the plain it would be difficult to make a road down, which would stand the wear and tear of heavy carts heavily laden; but I venture to suggest that this is a case where what is known as the Telpherage system might be applied with advantage and economy.

"Sozopoli Bay would seem to offer the greatest facilities for the shipment of the ore, being sheltered by the Megálo Nisi (Great Island) and the promontory of Sozopoli itself from the north-east winds, and having a good holding ground of mud, vessels of 25 ft. draught could anchor within 300 yards of the shore, where there is every facility for the construction of such piers as might be necessary. The distance of the mine from Sozopoli Bay is at most five miles.

"I need hardly say that I hold such specimens as I have at your disposal should you wish to examine them, or have them examined. I should add that a mining engineer who has studied for four years at the School of Mines in Jermyn Street was one of our party, and he speaks very favourably of the result of our researches, so far as they go."

Mr. O'Conor, in forwarding the above account, says that mining enterprises in Bulgaria have as yet been little developed, owing to the want of sufficient capital, and it seems not at all unlikely that very profitable employment might be found for foreign capital in the development of the mineral riches supposed to exist in the district of Bourgas, especially as there would seem to be no great difficulty in the export of the ore from Sozopolis.

Coffee Cultivation in Netherlands-India.

In the annual report on the finances of Netherlands-India drawn up by Sir George Bonham and transmitted to the Foreign Office by Sir Horace Rumbold, Her Majesty's Minister to the Hague, the following references occur with regard to coffee cultivation in the Dutch East Indian possessions:—

The greater part of the coffee plantations in the Dutch possessions, that is, those cultivated by the native population in Java and the west coast of Sumatra, as well as the district of Menado, in the Celebes, are directly under Government management, the natives being compelled to cultivate coffee instead of paying taxes, while the Government receive the whole of the produce at a fixed price, namely, 15 fl. (1*l.* 5*s.*) per picul. A certain amount is then disposed of in the country itself and the remainder sold at Amsterdam or Rotterdam; the usual practice being not to sell one year's crop in Holland until the following year, although, as an exception to the rule, as is pointed out in the Minister's statement, part of the crop of 1891 was sold towards the close of the year.

The fluctuations in the returns from coffee have of late years been considerable, owing to a great extent to variations in the yield of the harvest, but, apart from this cause, there appears to have been a change coming over the conditions of coffee cultivation in consequence of the exhaustion of the soil, which has had the effect of compelling the Government to abandon it in some districts, as shown by the great diminution of the number of native families employed.

With regard to labour it may be pointed out that labour in the coffee plantations is not now the only form of taxation to which the natives in Netherlands-India are liable. Formerly, feudal service, "*heerendienst*," in the form of so many days' labour was exacted, not only for a great number of public services, such as the maintenance of bridges and roads, but also for the private benefit of nearly all the native officials. In 1882 these services, as far as the native officials are concerned, were abolished, they receiving compensation in the form of an increase of salary, while a tax of 1 fl. (1*s.* 8*d.*) per head was imposed upon the natives. The amount yielded by this tax was found to be considerably more than was required to make up for the increased salaries, so that it has been found possible to abolish compulsory service with regard to several of the public services before alluded to, the expenses of which are now defrayed out of the surplus yielded by the tax, from which a fund is also provided for improving the condition of the native population.—(*No.* 1005, *Foreign Office Annual Series.*)

Protection of Foreign Exhibits at the Chicago Exhibition.

Sir J. Pauncefote, Her Majesty's Minister at Washington, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, dated April 14th, transmits an Act of Congress, approved April 6th, 1892, providing that no citizen of any other country than the United States shall be held liable for the infringement of any patent granted by the United States, or of any trade-mark or label registered in the United States, when the act complained of is or shall be performed in connexion with the exhibition of any article or thing at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago.

The Treatment of Stowaways in the United States.

Mr. A. de G. de Fonblanque, Her Majesty's Consul at New Orleans, in a despatch to the Foreign Office, encloses an account of a test case recently decided in the United States Circuit Court as to the law affecting stowaways and immigrants. It was held by the court that stowaways upon British vessels, when regularly enrolled by the master as members of the crew, were

not of that class of persons referred to by the immigration laws, but were actually and legally part of the ship's company and British seamen.

During the argument Justice Pardee said:—"An immigrant "is one who comes to a foreign country to stay. Here is "a man who comes as a seaman on board a ship which "provides for his wants and pays him wages—how can you "possibly make him out to be either a passenger, an immigrant, "or a pauper?"

On another point Justice Billings observed:—"Foreigners have "rights by treaty to come here, with their ships and crews. It is "no business of ours to inquire into the composition of their "crews, and serious inconvenience might arise if we assumed to "do so."

Cotton Operations at New Orleans.

Mr. A. de G. de Fonblanque, Her Majesty's Consul at New Orleans, in a report to the Foreign Office, dated the 2nd April, encloses a newspaper cutting on the subject of recent operations in the cotton trade of New Orleans, in which the following passages occur:—

The cotton press deal which has been pending for some time has been consummated, and all of the cotton presses in this city, with the exception of two, will hereafter be controlled by a syndicate which has purchased an option upon them. The deal was effected by Mr. Chas. J. Lewis in conjunction with the real estate firm of Macon, Denis, and Kernaghan. Mr. Lewis has been connected with the cotton trade for a long time here, and is thoroughly identified with its interests.

One of the reasons the cotton press business here has gone into the hands of a syndicate is that the great drawback to New Orleans as a cotton market for years has been the high charges for handling cotton at this port and the lack of proper facilities to factors and others interested in the trade.

It is asserted that the reason New Orleans does not receive even more cotton than she does is because of the high rates for compressing, storage, draying and hauling, which charges, it is claimed, are higher here than at other points. Were it not for this the planter and country merchant would send all their cotton here. A reduction in the charges, a good authority on the subject declares, would materially advance New Orleans as a cotton market and bring between 500,000 and 750,000 bales more per year here than are being received at present.

The presses will be run under a new system by the syndicate, and everybody's cotton will be handled at a fixed figure considerably below the prevailing tariff rates. The reduction in handling cotton under the new system is set down at from 15 to 25 per cent. less than at present, and some experienced pressmen go so far as to say that the decrease will be still greater.

The cost for clerk and other hire paid by the press proprietors at present averages 10,000 dollars per annum in round figures; placing it at the bottom figure the cost is not less than 150,000 dollars per annum. Under the new system there will be a central office. The cost of running this central office will not exceed 30,000 dollars per annum, thus saving over 100,000 dollars a year, which will materially decrease the cost of running the presses, and the saving will enable the syndicate to reduce the charges. The item of drayage will be greatly reduced, for the syndicate will do its own drayage, and own its own stock and vehicles. The deal involves considerably over 2,000,000 dollars, which will all come into New Orleans. The total assessment of the presses before the reports of the contemplated deal were on the street was over 1,300,000 dollars, but since then it has been increased about 50 per cent., thus placing the assessed value at very near 2,000,000 dollars.

Maryland and Virginia as a Field for Emigration.

Writing of the advantages of the States of Maryland and Virginia as a field for intending emigrants, Captain E. Segrave, Her Majesty's Consul at Baltimore, in his last annual report, says:—

It is a subject of wonder and regret that the numerous well-to-do English and Scottish immigrants who annually arrive in the United States, instead of proceeding to the west, do not turn their attention to the far more favourable field for immigration offered by Maryland and Virginia.

In place of the torrid heats of summer and the Arctic rigours of a winter in Dakota and adjoining States, they have here an equable climate, rarely colder than in England, and although in summer it is occasionally under the influence of a "hot wave," warmer than the average English husbandman is accustomed to, there are few days when work in the open air may not be carried on.

Land is plentiful, either to purchase or to lease, some good, a great deal bad, as in most countries, and generally fetching prices according to quality.

The soil varies so as to admit of almost every variety of culture, from market gardening in the neighbourhood of towns to cattle breeding and fruit culture.

Markets are plentiful and good, and the facilities of transport leave nothing to be desired.

Labour (coloured) is also obtainable; it is by no means ideally perfect, but still it is available, and would no doubt prove acceptable to the British immigrant just arrived in a new country.

Of course the foregoing remarks are intended to be directed to the immigrant who may be possessed of some small capital.—(*No.* 1001, *Foreign Office Annual Series.*)

Port Improvements at Baltimore.

Captain W. F. Segrave, Her Majesty's Consul at Baltimore, in his annual report on the trade of Baltimore in 1891, writing with regard to works in connexion with the port, says:—

Reference has been made in former reports to the great advantages possessed by Baltimore as a shipping port for foreign trade, and which render it for that purpose second to none on the Atlantic seaboard.

That these advantages are daily becoming more apparent to shipowners and others interested is evident from the increased volume of its foreign trade, and the facilities which it affords through its magnificent system of railways, in communication with the west, as well as local appliances for the speedy despatch of shipping show how amply it deserves its reputation. On more than one occasion a vessel has entered, loaded, and cleared for a European port within 24 hours.

The system of elevators has been enlarged and rendered as perfect as science and money can make them, and have now an aggregate storage capacity of 6,000,000 bushels of grain, and labour is plentiful and fairly cheap from an American point of view.

In addition the work of deepening and widening the channel of approach has been vigorously prosecuted, 500,000 dols. having been spent on this work during the past year.

The contract provides for the widening of the channel to 600 ft., with a depth throughout of 27 ft. at low water, and this has now been practically accomplished.

Trade Openings in Mozambique.

According to a report by the British Vice-Consul at Quilimane, the principal merchants in that locality, together with their nationality and branches, are the following:—

German, W. Philippi and Company, at Mozambique and Quilimane. French, Mante Frères et Borelli de Régis Ainé, at Ibo, Mozambique, Quilimane, Inhambane, Mossel Bay, and Delagoa Bay; August Fabre et Fils, at Ibo, Mozambique, Quilimane, Inhambane, and Delagoa Bay. Dutch, Oost Afrikaanische Companie, at Mozambique, Quilimane, Chindé, Muzongoa, Inhambane, and Delagoa Bay. Indian, Saccur Kassam, at Quilimane and Mozambique; Hadji Tyab Sulliman, at Mozambique. English, the African Lakes Company, Limited, and Quilimane, Chindé, Blantyre, and Lakes Nyassa and Tanganyika. Portuguese, Carrea and Carvalho, O. Hoffanau, Quilimane; German, L. Deuss and Company; French, A. Rossier and Company; Italian, A. Paolucci, Quilimane.

These are all importers of goods. As will be seen there is only one British firm, and this one having its chief interest in the interior does little more than agency and transport business in Quilimane. There is no doubt that a British house with a fair

capital, a London agency, and an energetic manager on the coast, well informed, well supported, and experienced in tropical commerce, could do a profitable business on this coast. Within the past three years, one German, one French, one Italian, and one Portuguese firm have commenced business, and not one has failed. Another French firm is soon to begin business. All the European and some of the Indian merchants import largely from England all sorts of goods, whilst from Bombay come quantities of goods of British manufacture as well as of Indian. A well-managed bank agency too could be made to pay if it had agencies in the different parts along the coast, and had direct connexion with Bombay.—(*No.* 1009, *Foreign Office Annual Series.*)

XXI.—GENERAL TRADE NOTES.

Experiments in Separating Milk from Cream in Cornwall.

The following is an extract from the report of the Technical Instruction Committee of the Cornwall Council County, on a series of tests between cream separators as against setting systems, presented to that body at its meeting in April:—

The sub-committee appointed by the Technical Executive Committee for Agriculture to carry out dairy teaching in Cornwall, was met at the outset by strongly expressed conflicting opinions as to the respective merits of several systems of butter making at present at work in the county. A large number of dairy farmers tenaciously held to the old Cornish system of milk scalding, affirming that as regards quantity and quality of butter no modern appliances were equal to it. The Jersey creamer, especially in East Cornwall, had strong advocates, and it was said that it was adopted with great success in a considerable number of dairies: while in the west the separator was reported to be the favourite. Under these circumstances the sub-committee thought it wise not to commit itself to any system of dairy teaching without first testing the merits of the systems referred to, and with this in view, it arranged to have a series of dairy demonstrations at Truro on December 15th and three following days. It was fortunate in being able to secure an expert to superintend the working of each system.

The sub-committee had three definite objects in view in these demonstrations. 1. The quantity of butter which the above systems respectively would produce from equal quantities of milk. 2. The quality of the butter and its value in the large markets of the kingdom. 3. The relative labour and expense in working the three systems.

The milk, which was of high quality, was supplied from three dairies near Penzance.

Taking the results of the two days' tests, they were:—

	Lbs.	ozs.	Lbs.	ozs.
Butter from "Alexandra" separator, first day	9	15¼		
Ditto, second day	9	15		
			19	14¼
Butter from Jersey creamer, first day	8	4½		
Ditto, second day	8	4		
			16	8½
Butter from milk scalder (half quantity) first day	4	1½		
Ditto, second day	3	15¾		
		×2=	16	2½

Attention is called to the almost precisely similar quantities of butter produced by the same process on each day, the milk scalder varying $\frac{1}{87}$th, the Jersey creamer $\frac{1}{265}$th, and the "Alexandra" separator only $\frac{1}{536}$th. The sub-committee regards this practical uniformity as very satisfactory proof that whatever the respective merits of the three systems in question may be, they were carried through very evenly on the two days' tests.

It will be seen that as regards quantities of butter from a given quantity of milk, the "Alexandra" separator showed itself superior to both the Jersey creamer and the milk scalder. The sub-committee then took steps to ascertain the quality of butter produced by the three systems respectively, and to this end four samples were taken of the butter made by each process, three samples for butter judges residing in London, Birmingham, and Plymouth, and one for analysis by Mr. Beringer, of Camborne. The judges were requested to test the quality of the samples sent on arrival, and then to carefully retain them for 10 days, when they were to repeat the tests and report results.

These results were so startling that some members of the agricultural committee desired that the tests should be repeated, and it was determined to place the three systems in competition. This was done at Port Eliot on Thursday and Friday, the 28th and 29th of January, the Earl of St. Germans kindly granting the use of his dairy for the purpose. The quantities of milk dealt with each day were the same as those at Truro, viz.:—

"Alexandra" separator, 20 gallons: Jersey creamer, 20 galls.; Cornish, 10 galls. The produce of butter was from milk supplied on Thursday, January 28th.

The following results were obtained:—"Alexandra" separator, 16 lbs: 1 oz.; Jersey creamer, 12 lb. 4 oz.; Cornish, 6 lb. 13½ oz. =13 lb. 11 oz.

It will be seen that while the "Alexandra" separator in the Port Eliot tests, as at Truro, heads the lists in quantity, the order of merit as regards the other two systems was inverted, the Cornish system producing considerably more butter than the Jersey creamer. It will also be noticed that there was considerable variation in the quantities of butter produced by each system, comparing the two days' yield with each other; in this respect differing very much from the practical uniformity to which attention was called when referring to the Truro tests, and indicated either that the work was not performed so carefully, or that causes beyond the control of the experts interfered with their working.

The sub-committee regards the question of the relative expense of working the three systems placed in competition to be of great importance, but the numerous points requiring consideration make it somewhat difficult definitely to answer. It is of opinion, however, that the "Alexandra" separator is to some extent more expensive than the Jersey creamer. This arises (1.) from the extra cost of the appliance itself, and (2.) the motive power required to work it. The last item would, however, be

considerably reduced where water power could be obtained, and in small dairies where hand power would be sufficient. It should be said that the Jersey creamer requires an almost constant supply of water, which in some dairies could not be easily secured. The expense of the milk scalder is too well known to need comment. The sub-committee has given the results, and leaves those interested to draw their own conclusions, and it suggests that at the different centres the whole matter be introduced for public consideration and discussion.

The World's Production of Coal in 1891.

The Pittsburgh *American Manufacturer* of April 8th, said:—"Judging from the returns for 1891 already received from the "coal-producing countries of Europe, the year 1891 will show "the greatest production of coal yet known. The only country "that shows a decreased production is Belgium, and this is only "500,000 tons. Great Britain shows an increase of nearly "4,000,000 tons; Germany about 3,200,000 tons of bituminous "coal and 1,300,000 tons of lignite; France increased production "of all kinds some 116,000 tons, and Spain 104,000 tons. From "the other coal-producing districts the production for 1891 has "not been received. On the basis of the latest figures received "the production of coal in Europe in 1890 and 1891, assuming "that the production in Russia, Austria, Sweden, and Italy runs "the same in each year as at the latest report, would be as "follows:—

*Production of Coal in Europe.**

Country.	Years.	Production.	Years.	Production.
		Tons.		Tons.
Great Britain	1890	181,614,288	1891	185,479,126
Germany†	1890	64,373,545	1891	67,528,311
	1890	15,499,977	1891	16,818,845
France	1890	26,083,118	1891	26,199,745
Belgium	1890	20,265,960	1891	19,865,345
Spain‡	1890	1,210,082	1891	1,314,147
Russia‡	1889	6,207,800	1889	6,207,800
Austria‡	1889	8,592,876	1889	8,592,876
Sweden‡	1888	300,000	1888	300,000
Italy‡	1888	366,794	1888	366,794
Totals	—	324,614,440	—	332,672,989

* All production except Great Britain is in metric tons; Great Britain's in gross tons.

† First line bituminous, second line brown coal.

‡ Includes all grades of coal.

"This indicates an increased production of coal in Europe in 1891 over 1890 of more than 8,000,000 tons. The increase in

anthracite in the United States was 4,500,000 tons. There are no figures for bituminous coal yet for 1891. The increase in 1890 over 1889 was 14,000,000 tons. It will hardly be as great in 1891, but it would not be at all surprising if the increase of production of all kinds of coal was 15,000,000 tons. What increase, if any, the other coal-producing countries of the world will show we cannot say. But little, probably. It is probable, however, that the world's production of coal in 1891 will be 28,000,000 to 30,000,000 tons greater than in 1890."

Housing of the Population in Warsaw.

In reviewing the first volume issued in connexion with a census undertaken in Warsaw in April last for ascertaining the sanitary condition of dwellings, Dr. S. Daszynska, in the March number of the *Statistische Monatschrift*, gives some of the figures resulting from the census, and showing the excessively crowded condition of the dwellings.

The population of Warsaw last year was 465,272 souls, and the number of dwellings 87,583, of which 34,083, or 38·9 per cent., consisted of one room; 18,427, or 21 per cent., of two rooms; 4,740, or 5·4 per cent., were garrets; and 5,623, or 6·1 per cent. cellars. Commenting on these figures the reviewer says, "We may therefore maintain that three-fifths of the "population are badly housed, and a stronger term should be "used for describing the dwelling accommodation of those who "occupy cellars, as the condition of the latter is such as must "excite horror. The number of vacant dwellings was only 2·3 "per cent. of the whole, and has decreased by 6·7 per cent. "since 1882. Building enterprise does not keep pace with the "growth of the population." The number of inhabitants per house is very high, a house occupied by one family only being a rare exception. The smallest number of individuals occupying one house is stated to be 30. The average number in 1882 was 93, a figure which compares unfavourably with London (8 per house) and Paris (30 per house). Forty per cent. of all the houses of Warsaw shelter over 100 persons each, 28·1 per cent. contain from one to two hundred persons, 7·4 from two to three hundred, 1·8 per cent. from three to four hundred, and 0·54 per cent. (24 houses) from four to five hundred, and one house actually contains 1,183 inhabitants. Data are yet wanting for ascertaining the relation between the rates of mortality and the degrees of over-crowding prevalent in the different quarters of the town. There were 8,282 deaths from infectious diseases in Warsaw during the last five years, and of these 28·5 per cent. were caused by small-pox. In 16 streets the death-rate from infectious diseases reached from 25 to 30 per 1,000 of the total mortality, and in 15 others from 30 to 50 per 1,000.

A New Industry in Germany.

Announcing the establishment of a new industry in Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Consul at Breslau says that hand-weaving, which was formerly a domestic industry of Silesia, disappeared to give place to mechanical weaving. Endeavours have been made to replace it by the sewing of gloves of glacé kid, the manufacture of which has for some years assumed some importance. The question has been raised of establishing at Reichenbach a school of weaving, subsidised by the Government.

The Mercury Mines of Almaden.

The following description of the mercury mines of Almaden is taken from the *Journal de la Chambre de Commerce de Constantinople* for the 2nd April last:—

The mercury mines of Almaden, in Spain, are at a short distance from the town of that name, following the valley in a northerly direction. The veins of the precious metal are disseminated a little haphazard, but those at present in working, form altogether a zone stretching for a length of from 160 to 170 metres, and which is only from 10 to 12 metres wide.

The depth of the bed is still unknown for the reason that when a vein is exhausted, the depth of the well is increased in order to reach a new vein. Between the different workable veins, there are beds of ores and rocks of different kinds; the average thickness of the unworkable beds varies between 10 and 37 metres.

The deepest gallery at present reaches 317 metres. A curious feature is that the farther the distance gone, the quality of mercury improves and the quantity increases.

In the 10th and 11th gallery (the deepest) the mercury runs, so to speak, from the rock as resin exudes from the trees; it can be gathered in small skin receptacles.

The rock varies in colour and passes from black to brilliant red; the more the colour approaches red, the more the quantity of mercury increases. Very often mercury is present under the form of cinnabar or sulphur.

The pits at present in working number three. The other old wells have been abandoned, and only serve in exceptional cases.

On delivery from the pits, the ore is smelted in vast furnaces, with enormous cupolas, beneath which a fierce fire is constantly kept burning.

Distillation is effected through a long and complete series of tubes, formed of thick jars, with a long and narrow neck, fitting into each other.

In the lower portion of these jars there exists a kind of small reservoir where the drops of mercury produced by the evaporation of the metal in a state of fusion are condensed. These drops are then collected and, with the aid of small pipes, stored in large

iron barrels. A strong and penetrating odour, which irritates the eyes and nostrils, escapes from the jars and barrels.

The production of mercury reaches about 55,000 to 60,000 *frascos* per annum; the *frascos* are enormous bottles of cast iron which contain 4 arrobes of about 25 lbs. each. Each bottle, which measures 22 centimetres in height by 6 in width, weighs, when filled, about 100 lbs.

The workmen at present employed number about 2,000. There are also a thousand workmen who are employed out of the mines with machinery, furnaces, transports, and other works.

English, German, and French Trade with Portugal.

According to a report by M. Bihourd, French Minister at Lisbon, quoted by the *Monde Economique* for the 9th April, England holds the first place in the foreign trade of Portugal in 1890 with 3,880,000*l.*, a figure slightly larger than that for 1889 for the imports, and, for the exports 2,000,000*l.*, a figure less by 140,000*l.* than that of 1889.

The second place belongs to France and not to Germany, at least as regards the imports. The latter in fact amounted in 1890 to 1,628,000*l.*, an increase of 168,000*l.* over 1889; the imports from Germany, on the contrary, were in 1890 only 1,589,000*l.*, as compared with 1,352,000*l.* in 1889. For the exports, on the other hand, France will have lost from 1889 to 1890 more than 560,000*l.*, and reached in 1890 only 420,000*l.*; whilst the Portuguese exports to Germany, which were 840,000*l.* in 1889, increased to 892,000*l.* in 1890. This gives a large increase for Germany both as regards exports and imports.

The above figures show that, if France still holds the second place, her imports in 1890 exceeded those of Germany by only 40,000*l.*, whilst in 1889 they were greater by about 120,000*l.*

Mineral Discoveries in Greece.

The mineral wealth of the island of Milo has just been increased by the discovery of mines of barytes containing, it appears, a large quantity of silver.

According to the French Consul at Syra, explorations have been made in the localities of Mirovilia, Pikroudon, Castagnia, and at Teriades on the promontory of Vani to the north-east of the island. Everywhere the results have exceeded the highest anticipations.

At Mirovilia there have been opened six galleries of a total length of 104 metres and four wells of 11 metres each. Analysis has established the proportion of from 300 to 1,900 grammes of silver per ton of barytes.

At Pikroudon pits to a small depth have been sunk from which 720 metric centners of barytes have been extracted. The proportion of silver is from 200 to 250 grms. per ton.

At Castagnia the barytes extracted from three pits contains the same proportion of silver.

At Triades five horizontal galleries have been sunk, and the barytes extracted in this locality contains 300 grms. of silver per ton.

Further, in other places pieces of barytes have been gathered in the open trenches which have given up to 10,000 grms. per ton.

The mass of barytes at Milo is estimated at 12,000,000 tons. Supposing that 200 tons were extracted daily it would require 700 years to exhaust it. It is recommended that foundries of the "Augustin" type, similar to those in use in Hungary, should be established in the localities mentioned above, and more particularly at Kannari and at Pigadakia, where water is to be had in plenty. These two localities are also sufficiently near to the sea to permit ships of large tonnage to effect loading.

Wine Product of Roumania.

The following note on the production of wine in Roumania appears in the *Moniteur Officiel du Commerce* for the 31st March:—

The wine crop of 1891 amounted to 3,081,182 hectolitres (hectolitre = 22 imperial gallons), consisting of 746,950 hectols. red wine and 2,334,232 hectols. white wine. For some time Roumanian wines have sold by reason of their good quality. On the home markets the prices of Roumanian wines are on an average 6 francs per 10 litres for the first quality, 3 to 5 frs. for medium quality, and from 1 to 2 frs. for ordinary wines. A slight addition of alcohol renders them fit for exportation.

Hat and Shoe Industries of Japan.

The *Moniteur Official du Commerce*, in its issue of the 17th March, quotes a recent report of the French Minister at Tokio to the effect that a factory for men's hats has been recently established near Tokio, with a capital of 100,000 dols. Hitherto the difficulties and the cost of installation have prevented this establishment from delivering more than about 20 dozen hats daily, but it is hoped that the figure of 20,000 hats per annum will be reached. The very reasonable prices of these articles (from 25 cents to 1·50 dols.) will readily admit of their disposal to a public not very particular as regards quality, but

easily affected by considerations of economy. This new industry will affect the import trade in hats, and principally the English market, which figures in the official statistics for a proportion of 93 per cent. in comparison with other countries of origin, France, Germany, and America. The orders for men's hats made in Europe and America for Japan have in recent years been in the following proportions: 1886, 26,704 dozens; 1887, 50,288 dozens; 1888, 61,872 dozens; 1889, 97,848 dozens; and 1890, 61,984 dozens. The figures for 1890 show a marked decrease. A slight recovery in orders, however, is to be noted, but the manufacture on the spot will give the import trade something to do if it wishes to sustain the competition with articles of a quality sufficient for the needs of the country and the prices of which would appear to defy all competition.

The manufacture of leather shoes of European form, which for 20 years has assumed large proportions in Japan, shows a marked decline and the 800,000 catties of leather imported annually at Tokio for the use of the shoemakers cannot be all used this year. The causes for this reduction are to be found in the diminution of the number of State officials, who since they are no longer required to wear European dress, revert to the native costume, and also to a marked tendency that the Japanese of all classes seem to manifest to dissociate themselves from the ideas and customs of foreign lands.

Pacific Coast Fisheries of the United States.

A recent census bulletin reports that the fisheries of the United States on the Pacific coast employed 13,850 persons in various capacities in the last federal census year, that they had 6,498,239 dollars invested in them, and that the products were valued at 6,387,803 dols.

An examination of the tables shows the fisheries of California are more important than those of either Oregon or Washington. It is announced also, that 5,338 of those engaged in the fisheries are from California, 38·5 per cent.; that 2,684,210, or 41·3 per cent., of the capital invested represent California interests, and that 4,463,369dols., or 69·8 per cent., of the value of the products are credited to that State.

The fisheries of Oregon, which rank next to those of California, employ 4,682 persons, 33·8 per cent. of the whole number employed in the three States; the capital invested there is 2,296,632, dols. or 35·3 per cent., and the proportion of products credited to Oregon is 16·1 per cent., the value being 1,033,574 dols.

There were engaged in the industry in Washington 3,830 persons, or 27·6 per cent. of the aggregate number of employés in the Pacific fisheries. The amount of investment was 1,517,397 dols., or 23·3 per cent. The value of the catch was 890,860 dols., or 13·9 per cent.

The canning of salmon is the most important fishery industry in the Pacific States, and the capture of salmon in many places is wholly dependent on and tributary to the canning business. Of the 63 factories, 8 were located in California, 34 in Oregon and 21 in Washington. The quantity of fresh salmon utilised in the preparation of the canned product was 41,632,223 dols. pounds, for which the fishermen received 1,783,227 dols. The canned goods consisted of 622,037 cases, worth 3,703,838 dols. at the ruling market prices.

Compared with 1880, the fisheries of this region have, as a whole, greatly advanced, although a few special branches show a decline. The increase in persons employed has been 28 per cent., in capital invested 182 per cent., and in value of products 50 per cent. California has advanced 72 per cent. in persons employed, 136 per cent. in the amount of investment, and 38 per cent. in the value of catch. Oregon has declined 12 per cent. in the number of fishery employés, but has advanced 176 and 69 per cent., respectively, in the items of capital invested and value of products. Washington exhibits a large increase in personnel, capital and results, amounting to 71, 359, and 113 per cent., respectively.

Among the causes which may be mentioned as having contributed to this great advance in the fisheries of the Pacific States, are the rapid growth of the country, the natural abundance of fish in the rivers and adjacent to the shores, and the decreased supply of mackerel, whales, &c., on the Atlantic coast. Especially worthy of notice is the great increase in the whale fleet of this coast and the maintenance of the extensive salmon fisheries in the face of the enormous yearly drain on the species.

Manufacture of Cast-iron Pipe in the United States.

There are in the United States, according to a recent census report, 36 establishments engaged in the manufacture of cast-iron pipe. Of these three are in New York and the New England States, six in New Jersey, eight in Pennsylvania, eight in the Southern States, four in Ohio, and seven in other Western States.

While the total value of the product of these establishments for the census year is put at 15,168,682 dols. a more exhaustive analysis of the returns shows that the actual value of pipe produced was 12,556,315 dols., the balance, 2,612,367 dols., being the value of other castings and products. It should be stated, however, that the item of "other castings" is made up chiefly of pipe fittings and specials.

Bradstreet's for the 9th April last says that a significant fact is the rapid drift of this industry westward and southward. The oldest seat of the cast-iron pipe industry is in eastern Pennsylvania and the adjoining sections of New Jersey, which districts produced 43 per cent. of the entire output of 1890. One establishment, situated at Millville, N.J., has been in operation since 1803,

and has been conducted by the same interests since its organisation, but it did not begin the manufacture of pipe until some years later. Two other works in this section were established prior to 1850, and five works were built and put in operation between 1850 and 1880. The advance in municipal improvement in the west and south-west. and the increasing cost of transportation have, however, tended to distribute the industry over new territory, with the result indicated in the foregoing figures. Of the works located in the southern States two are in Virginia, two in Kentucky, two in Tennessee, one in Alabama, and one in Texas. The works grouped under "Other Western States" include two in Missouri, and one in Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, and Oregon respectively. An important section still inadequately covered is Minnesota and surrounding States and it is a matter of surprise that Duluth has not yet developed this important branch of industry. It would seem, also, that Chicago or vicinity could take care of another large concern of this kind.

Industrial Progress of the Southern States of the American Union.

An interesting address on the progress of the Southern States during the decade from 1880 to 1890 was delivered by Commissioner Carroll D. Wright on the 7th April last. Some of the statistics given in the address afforded opportunities for comparison with periods prior to 1880. According to a summary published in *Bradstreet's* for April 9th, Colonel Wright said, among other things, that the Southern States in 1870 produced but 184,540 tons of pig iron, and in 1880, 397,301 net tons, but that in 1890, 1,780,909 net tons of pig iron were produced. The average cost of pig iron in the northern part of the United States, he said, was for run of furnace about 14 dols. per ton of 2,240 pounds, while in the South the average cost of run of furnace pig iron was 10·75 dols. The largest cotton crop in the Southern States prior to the war was in 1860, when 4,669,770 bales were produced. In 1871 it was 4,352,317 bales. In 1891 the production reached 8,652,597 bales, and 605,661 bales of the production were consumed in southern mills, as against less than half that quantity ten years before. In 1890 the cotton-seed oil mills crushed 1,058,200 tons, the product being worth 27,310,836 dols., an increase in round numbers in ten years of 24,000,000 dols. The number of cotton mills increased from 161 in 1880 to 334 in 1890, the number of spindles from about 500,000 to nearly 2,000,000, and the product from 16,356,182 dols. to 54,199,379 dols. In 1880 there were 567 establishments for the manufacture of wool in the Southern States, while in 1890 there were but 334. The decrease in number, however, in no way indicates a decrease in other features, for the capital invested in the woollen manufactures of the Southern States was 4,104,077 dols. in 1880 and 10,283,003 dols. in 1890.

In 1880 the production of distilled spirits amounted to 21,413,237 galls., and in 1890, 44,276,093 galls., while of fermented liquors the Southern States produced in 1880, 1,340,037 barrels, and in 1890 the production was 3,482,369 barrels. Between 1880 and 1890 the mileage of southern railroads, with the exception of Arkansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, and Texas, was increased from 13,221 miles to 24,956 miles. The capital invested in the great industries of the south is represented by the banking capital, which in 1880 was 92,500,000 dols., and in 1890 more then 171,500,000 dols. The capital invested in manufactures and establishments of all kinds was advanced from 179,333,333 dols. in 1880 to 551,500,000 dols. in 1890. The total indebtedness of the Southern States, including county debts and less the sinking fund, was, in 1880, 215,712,241 dols., while in 1890 it had been reduced to 178,161,755. dols., a result which is worthy of some attention.

Exports of Henequen from Mexico.

The French Consul at Vera Cruz, in a report upon the Mexican export of henequen in 1891, says:—

The weight of henequen exported from Mexico in 1891 was 113,263,519 lbs., valued at 5,996,044 piastres. In 1890, the quantity and value were respectively 97,959,373 lbs. and 5,007,562 piastres, and in 1889, 87,839,783 lbs. and 8,783,978 piastres.

It therefore appears that production has increased to a large extent in 1891, compared with the two preceding years, but the article having kept at a low price, which was lower still in 1891, it results that the value exported in 1889 was superior to that which is represented by the exports for the two following years, although the quantity exported has been less.

In fact the average price in 1889 was 10 centimes of a piastre per pound, against 5·1 cents. in 1890 and 5·2 cents. in 1891. The average price for last year is therefore slightly higher than that for 1890, a fact which should be taken into account as well as the increase shown by the quantity exported.

The Sisal Grass of Yucatan.

One of the most remarkable vegetable products known, and one of the most valuable resources of Yucatan, says the *Mexican Financial Review*, is its sisal grass. It grows in long, narrow blades, often to the length of four or five feet, and these, when dry, curl up from side to side, forming a flexible string, stronger than any cotton cord of the same size ever manufactured. It is in great demand among florists and among manufacturers of various kinds of grass goods; but as soon as its valuable properties

become known it will have a thousand uses now undreamed of. Ropes, cords, lines of any description and any size may be manufactured of it, and a ship's cable of sisal grass is one of the possibilities of the future. It is almost impervious to the action of salt water, and is not readily decayed or disintegrated by moisture and heat, and will, in time, prove one of the most valuable productions of Mexico. It takes its name from the port of Sisal, in Yucatan, through which it was formerly exported.

Mexican Pearls.

An American writing to the *Mexican Financial Review* from Lower California says: "La Paz is the finest little city along "the coast, and has long been noted for its pearl fisheries. More "than a score of the royal families adorn themselves with these "precious jewels in Europe to-day. The pearls of La Paz far "exceed those of India in lustre and in price, and are eagerly "sought for by the belles of all lands. Yet a person buying pearl "in La Paz must be somewhat of an expert or he will get swindled, "as there is a fine imitation made from the pearl shell that almost "defies detection. La Paz, with its hundred windmills, its shaded "avenues, beautiful gardens in terraces, and its white houses, of "which one catches a glimpse from beneath the date and cocoa "palms reaching down to the sea, contrasting so beautifully with "the nut brown hill as a background, forms a lovely picture."

A New Venezuelan Port.

The *Official Gazette* of Venezuela publishes a proclamation by Dr. R. Andueza Palacio, President of the Republic, dated at Caraccas, the 6th day of February, in which he decrees the new port of Guanta to be opened to the commerce of imports and exports.

This new port of Guanta is to replace the old port called "El Rincon," in the State of Barcelona, which is now almost closed to traffic owing to the many sand banks formed by the river Neveri, in the mouth of which the old port was established many years ago.

Guanta is now finished, and is made all of granite and concrete, with large warehouses, a very fine Custom house and other offices, and safe anchoring ground for vessels of any size which can easily go alongside.

From this port to the city of Barcelona there is a very good line of railway, 12 miles in length, already established and opened to traffic, and another line communicating with the rich coal mines of Barcelona, which are now at work with very satisfactory results.

Captains clearing their vessels from Demerara to Barcelona are cautioned to do so direct to the new port of Guanta, which is now opened to trade, offering more facilities and greater safety to vessels.

Trade in Ostrich Feathers in South Africa.

The German Consul at Port Elizabeth says with regard to the export of ostrich feathers from South Africa, that in 1889 there were exported 229,137 lbs. of these feathers, of a value of 365,000*l.*; in 1890 the exports were only 212,276 lbs., but their value reached 564,000*l.* By reason of the maladies from which the ostriches have suffered, the exports in 1891 were smaller still, although the exact figures are not yet known. It is certain, however, that prices ruled higher on account of fashion favouring the wearing of feathers.

Railway Development in India.

A communication has been received from the Public Works Department of the Government of India to the effect that the extension of the Sind-Sagar section of the North-Western railway from Kundian to Mari was opened for public traffic on the 15th March 1892.

Also that the Vayalpad-Dharmavaram section of the Villupuram-Guntalkal State Railway, a length of 94 miles, was opened for traffic on the 20th March.

Canadian Nickel.

In an article on Canadian nickel production, the *Monetary Times* of Toronto says that the nickel deposits at Sudbury, Ontario, form one of the two great sources of the world's supply of this metal, the other being the mines of New Caledonia, a colony of France situated in the Pacific Ocean, some hundreds of miles east of Australia.

The great deposits in New Caledonia are of garnierite, a hydrous silicate of nickel and magnesia, while the Sudbury ores are of nickeliferous pyrrhotite and chalcopyrite. The quantity of nickel mined in the United States in the last 16 years, according to a paper on nickel by Mr. W. R. Ingalls, M.E., has averaged only 121,000 lbs. per annum. The principal source of the metal in that country is the Lancaster Gap, Pennsylvania, mine, but its output is lessening, and in fact it shows signs of exhaustion. There are other deposits of the nickel in Nevada, Arkansas, Oregon, North Carolina, and Connecticut, as well as in the Black Hills of South Dakota, but none of these mines, we understand, have yet become regular producers. The deposits vary in

character from a cobalt and nickel sulphide, as at Churchill, Nevada, to the nickel silicate found at Riddles, Oregon. Exports of nickel from the New Caledonia mines reached 885,000 lbs. in 1890, nine-tenths or more in the form of nickel ore averaging 8 per cent. of the metal. Norway produced in 1889 some 149,000 lbs. Says Mr. Ingalls:—

"The nickeliferous chalcopyrite and pyrrhotite of Sudbury are first roasted and then smelted in cupola furnaces to nickel-copper matte, containing about 20 per cent. nickel. These mattes are very refractory, and it is only within the past year that they have been successfully handled. Of the large output in the Sudbury district in 1890 but a comparatively small portion was shipped. About 15 months ago the Orford Copper Company devised a successful method for refining these mattes, and since then the bulk of the output of the Canadian mines has been brought to this country, the Orford Copper Company now being the largest nickel refiner in the world. Early in the year the United States Government purchased a large amount of matte of the Canadian companies, practically cleaning out their accumulated stocks, and all of this has been refined by the Orford Company. By the process used by the latter, which is a secret one, the copper and nickel in the matte are separated and the nickel converted into nickel oxide, which is said to be more suitable for the manufacture of nickel steel than metallic nickel. A small part of the Sudbury mattes is sent to Swansea to be refined."

Of the three nickel smelting works in the United States, the American works at Camden, N.J., run on Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Canadian ores; the Orford works, opposite Staten Island in New York harbour, on Canadian mattes only; while the Canadian Copper Company's works at Cleveland, Ohio, are to run, when completed, upon mattes from that company's mines at Sudbury. La Société du Nickel, which owns the New Caledonia mines, has four refineries in operation: one near Havre, in France; one at Eiserlohn, in Germany; one at Glasgow, Scotland; one at Irdlington, near Birmingham, England.

Matters in the Canadian nickel belt in northern Ontario, about Sudbury, are by no means stationary. We hear that the Drury Nickel Company, whose lands are in the township of Drury, have not only built a smelter which is about ready for work, but have constructed a line of railway to connect their property with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

A late paragraph mentions the formation at Havre of a company for the manufacture of nickel, which shall use the mineral from Canadian mines. This points to competition with La Société du Nickel, which controls the New Caledonia mines. At any rate this new company is erecting a factory on the Tancarville canal at Havre, and is said to have concluded an important contract with the Government of France for nickel-plating parts of the Lebel rifles.

Mineral Wealth in British Columbia.

Writing on the subject of the mineral wealth of British Columbia, the *Canadian Gazette* for the 21st April says that at the first meeting of the geological and mining section of the Canadian Institute at Toronto, Mr. W. Hamilton Merritt, chairman of the section, delivered an interesting lecture on the West Kootenay district in British Columbia, which he visited last summer. He began by giving statistics of the output of minerals in the United States, showing that of the 600,000,000 dols. annual output of minerals the silver mines yield 100,000,000 dols., and remarking upon the rich prospect in the Kootenay district immediately north of the chief silver district in the United States. He urged the patriotic duty of Canadians to develop this hidden wealth in enterprising fashion.

Referring generally to the geography of the district, he showed that it was divided by but an imaginary line from the rich mineral district of Idaho and Washington, and ridiculed the idea which he said some people seemed to entertain that the imaginary line known as the 49th parallel marked the bounds of this mineral wealth. He went at some length into the geological characteristics of the district, and also described its physical features. He noted the extreme difficulty which attended travel in this region in the old days, and showed how recent railway development had now made the district easy of access. Mr. Merritt gave briefly his personal experience in the district, but he relied for his descriptions of its mineral wealth mainly upon official reports, including those of Dr. Dawson, Assistant Director of the Geological Survey and the Commissioner of Mines of British Columbia. These reports showed a very large number of claims located and a very gratifying degree of development.

One great advantage is shown to be the proximity to one another of valuable leads. The absence of this feature in some districts in the older provinces had prevented the concentration of capital necessary to a high state of development. In the case of one mine—a valuable find of galena, carrying a considerable percentage of silver—a smelter is already being erected, an enterprise which assures rapid further development. In this connexion he noted the extremely high duty upon lead ores imposed by the United States, and advised, if necessary, a retaliatory duty, contending that with a large proportion of the ore the silver it carried would pay for the smelting, leaving the lead to be exported and sold in the markets of the world.

Mr. W. H. Lynch, of Kootenay, followed, and said that the mineral output of Canada was about 20 millions a year, or only about one-thirtieth that of the United States. He said that even this proportion does not hold good in the case of silver, in which the output of the United States is 150 times greater than that of Canada and four times greater than the whole mineral output of the Dominion. Considering that the country from which comes

the capital to develop a mining region receives the profit of the work done, he urged the necessity of Canadians employing their own capital for the development of their own mines.

Branding Products for Export in Victoria.

The *Adelaide Observer* for the 5th March says that in Victoria there has been considerable discussion upon the question whether wine intended for export should or should not be submitted to the judgment of connoisseurs for the purpose of deciding whether it is likely to damage the credit of the colony. If good enough the parcel would be certificated, and a mark put upon each barrel or cask to show that it had passed the examination creditably. Great diversity of opinion prevails, and some people contend that all wine should pass under review, but that even if it should fail to receive the approbation of the judges the owner should still be allowed to ship it. Those who have already established a name for themselves in the European markets are in favour of the proposition, but are of opinion that their wine should be exempted, because it would be altogether against their interests to export wine likely to damage their good reputation.

However, there can be little doubt that such a system would be most beneficial to the export trade in manufactured products. So far as fresh butter is concerned the principle has proved to be quite sound; and the prevention of the export of inferior butter under the Government bonus system has given a name to the Victorian butter which will secure a ready sale for all future shipments provided similar inspections are insisted upon.

Of course dishonest people who wish to sell adulterated and inferior articles for the same prices that should be obtained for pure and perfect goods will object to any interference with their projects; but it is most desirable that exports should be encouraged and continued, and this can never be effected so long as certain persons are allowed to flood the outside markets with rubbish. For first-class canned and preserved fruits and vegetables there may be—in fact, there is—an unlimited demand, and there are certain firms in Australia which have made for themselves a name which will sell their goods to any extent; but some of these have complained that goods of very inferior character have been placed upon the same markets and even been decorated with their labels, or labels sufficiently closely resembling them to deceive customers, and thus almost incalculable injury has been done to their trade. But even where a firm has always exported first-class produce the quantity is so small in proportion to the requirements of the market that it is lost in a measure, and two or three lots of rubbish put upon the same market by other persons will give such a bad name to anything coming from "Australia" will injure the reputation of all other exporters. This has been the case in respect to "Australian honey," of

which some lots purporting to come from Australia lately were so strongly adulterated that the bee journals unreservedly condemned it as worthless, and now, as a consequence, "Australian honey" is quite at a discount on the English market. The same thing occurred in respect to our wine many years ago. A trio of wine-makers sent to London a shipment of South Australian "wine" which they found quite unsaleable here, and they found also that the Londoners did not appreciate vinegar as a beverage. The result was that for a long time our Australian wine had a bad name amongst the Londoners. Olive oil had a similar experience when some of our own people mixed cheap Chinese oil, imported, with the pure product of our own olives, and the consumption of olive oil in South Australia received a check then from which it has not yet recovered.

Shipping Statistics of New South Wales.

The Government Statistician has issued Part I. of the Statistical Register for 1891 and previous years. This part, consisting of 33 pages, deals with shipping, and it is compiled from the Customs returns. From a summary which appears in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, it appears that during 1891 there were 3,021 vessels entered at the several ports of New South Wales, with an aggregate of 2,821,898 tons, and crews numbering 94,061. Of these vessels 2,155 were steamers, representing 2,147,333 tons, and with crews numbering 81,750. There were 866 sailing vessels, with 674,565 tons, and 12,311 in the crews. Out of the above gross total 2,301 vessels came with cargoes to the extent of 2,189,281 tons, while 720 vessels, of 632,617 tons came in ballast. The total number of vessels that cleared at all the ports of the colony was 3,100, with a tonnage of 2,872,338, and crews numbering 94,386. Of these 2,169 were steamers, of 2,152,458 tons, and crews numbering 81,318; while there were 931 sailing vessels, of 719,880 tons, and 13,068 in the crews. Of the total cleared 2,904 vessels, of 2,789,382 tons, left with cargoes; and only 196 vessels, of 82,956 tons, left in ballast. Of the vessels entered, 524, of 880,442 tons, belonged to the United Kingdom; 2,188, of 1,551,119 tons, to the colonies and other British possessions; and 309, of 390,337 tons, were foreign. Of the vessels cleared, 560, of 933,274 tons were owned in the United Kingdom; 2,216, of 1,537,772 tons, belonged to the colonies or other British possessions; and 324, of 401,292 tons, were foreign. It should be remarked that both entrances and clearances are higher than those of 1890, though less than those of 1889—a fact for which the maritime strike of 1890 may be held responsible. Of the vessels entered as above, 457 sailing and 1,229 steam vessels, of 334,171 tons and 1,600,385 tons respectively, were entered at the port of Sydney, and the clearances therefrom consisted of 272 sailing and 998 steam vessels, of 193,145 and 1,342,161 tons. At Newcastle the entrances comprised 369 sailing and 364 steam vessels, the tonnage respec-

tively being 332,762 and 371,544 tons. The Newcastle clearances were 596 sailing and 568 steam vessels, of 514,053 tons and 626,483 tons respectively. The average tonnage of vessels inwards was—United Kingdom, 1,671 tons; the colonies and other British possessions, 709 tons; and foreign, 1,263 tons. The average number in the crews of these vessels under the above headings respectively was 51, 25, and 41. During 1891 there were 18 vessels wrecked on the coast of New South Wales, with a loss of 47 lives. Three of these vessels were under 50 tons, 10 from 50 to 100 tons, 3 from 100 to 200 tons, 1 between 400 and 500 tons, and 1 was over 500 tons. The heaviest calamity was the loss of the Tamarung, steamer, from Newcastle to Melbourne, in June last, which never reached her destination, but is supposed to have been lost off Cape Jervis. She had 32 souls on board, and was valued with cargo at 12,000*l.* In 1891 there were 93 vessels of 14,731 tons registered in the colony, bringing the total number registered in the colony up to 968 vessels, of 113,616 tons. Of these 856 vessels of 102,047 tons, were registered in Sydney, and 112 vessels of 11,569 tons at Newcastle. Forty vessels of 1,340 tons were built in the colony during the year, of which 13 were steamers of 767 tons altogether.

Railway Traffic Earnings in New South Wales.

In a communication to the Board of Trade, dated the 4th May, the Secretary to the New South Wales Government agency forwards a statement of the railway and tramway revenue of New South Wales for the months of January and February last.

According to this statement, the earnings of the New South Wales railways in January last amounted to 291,520*l.*, as against 274,861*l.* for the corresponding month of 1890. In February the earnings aggregated 237,913*l.*, making a total for the first two months of 1892 of 529,433*l.*, as compared with 501,630*l.* for the corresponding period in 1891. The length of line open is now 2,182 miles.

As regards the tramways, the receipts for January amounted to 28,310*l.* and for February to 24,373*l.*, the total for the two months being 52,683*l.*, as compared with 49,998*l.* for the corresponding period of 1891. The length of line now open is 46 miles, against 42½ miles at the corresponding date in 1891.

Dangers to Navigation in Queensland Waters.

The following is a copy of a notice issued from the Treasury Department at Brisbane offering a reward for the discovery of dangers to navigation in Queensland waters:—

Notice is hereby given, that a reward will be paid by the Government of Queensland to the discoverer of any *unknown danger to navigation* on the coast of Queensland.

The discoverer will be required to mark the locality of the danger with a buoy, or in such manner that it can easily be found again, and to furnish a report giving full particulars thereof to the nearest harbour authority at the earliest opportunity.

When the reported danger has been examined by a Government officer, and the report found to be substantially correct, a reward will be paid varying in amount from 10*l.* to 50*l.* according to the importance of the discovery, which will be decided by the Honourable the Colonial Treasurer.

The Sugar and Cocoa Crops of Trinidad.

The following particulars of the sugar and cocoa crops of Trinidad in 1891 are extracted from the report by Mr. H. J. Clark, Government Statistician of that colony:—

Owing to an unfavourable season the sugar crop of 1891 fell much below an average one, the total crop only reaching 61,006 hogsheads.

Although nearly one half of the entire sugar crop still consists of Muscovado or "open pan" sugar, the proportion of vacuum pan sugar continues to show a small but steady yearly increase, having risen from 43·61 per cent. in 1888, to 44·73, 49·34, and 50·9 per cent. in 1889, 1890, and 1891 respectively. 71·34 per cent. of the sugar exports found a market, or perhaps it would be more correct to say a primary market, in the United States. Although the McKinley tariff will no doubt make prices better, it can scarcely be expected to add much to the above stated large per-centage as a considerable part of the better class sugar will, unless European prices seriously decline, continue to be sent "home" in the good old-fashioned way, to be sold by merchant proprietors or mortgagees resident in England.

The cacao crop of the past season, 1890–1891, was the largest ever gathered, the total having reached 20,764,942 lbs., or 2,247,525 lbs. in excess of the highest figures on record. Taking the figures of the two quinquennial periods forming the decade, the average crop of the second period will be found to have been 17,607,502 lbs., as against 13,200,165 lbs. for the first period or an increase of 33·4 per cent.

During the second quinquennial period, 1887 to 1891, the chief cacao customers of the colony have increased their trade with it in the following proportions:—United Kingdom, 11 per cent.; France, 46 per cent.; United States, 86 per cent. Thus, while the exports to the United Kingdom have been little more than stationary, those to France, and especially those to the United States, have increased by "leaps and bounds," and looking at the "vast possibilities" of the latter market, with its sixty-two and a half millions of consumers, it may confidently be predicted that the demand for the second great staple of the colony will, for many years to come, keep pace with any possible increase of local production.

Railway Traffic Earnings in Cape Colony.

Communications have been received from the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, transmitting copies of comparative statements, from which it appears that the traffic earnings on Cape Government railways during the month of January 1892 amounted to 155,664*l.* as against 130,249*l.* for the corresponding month in 1891, and during the month of February to 149,895*l.*, as compared with 150,282*l.* in the month of February 1891. For the eight months ended February the traffic earnings aggregated 1,283,857*l.*, as against 1,125,911*l.* for the corresponding period of the previous year.

Revenue Returns of Cape Colony.

A communication, dated the 19th April, has been received from the Agent-General for the Cape of Good Hope, enclosing copies of comparative statements, from which it appears that the revenue received in the month of February last amounted to 373,026*l.*, showing a net increase of 44,672*l.* on the amount for the corresponding month of 1891. For the eight months ended February 1892 the revenue was 2,911,465*l.*, the net increase on the corresponding amount in 1891 being 218,906*l.*

XXII.--PROCEEDINGS AND DELIBERATIONS OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Birmingham.—The monthly meeting of the council of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce was held on the 26th April, Mr. J. William Tonks in the chair.

The secretary reported that petitions had been presented to the House of Commons by the president of the Chamber in favour of the Pig-iron Warrants Bill, Shop Hours Bill, the Rating of Mah nery Bill, and against the Shops Weekly Holiday Bill, and the Employers' Liability Bill. Further, that memorials had been prepared and forwarded to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the President of the Board of Trade in reference to treaty arrangements with Spain, and urging Her Majesty's Government to use their utmost endeavours to obtain by treaty with Spain most-favoured-nation treatment, failing which, it was submitted that British trade with Cuba and Porto Rico would after the 1st of July next be ruined. On and after that date the undermentioned articles of hardware would be admitted into Cuba and Porto Rico from the United States free of duty, but would be subjected to the rates of duty annexed to each article if imported from this country:—Files, 2*l.* 17*s.* per cwt.; sad-irons, 3*s.* 2*d.* per cwt.; cast-iron pots and stores, 3*s.* 2*d.* per cwt.; cast-iron pipes, 3*s.* 2*d.* per cwt.; cast or wrought, tinned, enamelled, or galvanised hollow-ware, buckets, frypans, &c., 8*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; cast-iron hinges, columns, and tanks, 4*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.; wrought iron hinges and tanks, 6*s.* 4*d.* per cwt.; nails, 6*s.* per cwt.; iron, in bars, sheets, and hoops, 2*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; iron, in bars, sheets, and hoops, galvanised, 6*s.* 4*d.* per cwt.; wood screws, 14*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; tools (agricultural), hoes, ploughs, and picks, 4*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.; shovels, 11*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; gas tubes, wrought iron, 6*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; matchets (medium) and cane knives, 1*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* per cwt.; matchets, best (Collins and similar), 2*l.* 17*s.* per cwt.; axes, adzes, &c., 1*l.* 10*d.* per cwt.; pit saws, 1*l.* 10*d.* per cwt.; hand saws, 2*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* per cwt. Letters acknowledging the receipt of the memorials had been received from Mr. J. W. Lowther, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. Mr. Lowther said the representations of the Chamber on the subject of trade with Cuba and Porto Rico should receive attention; and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach said that Her Majesty's Representative at Madrid had been instructed to pay special attention to the points referred to in the memorial.

Bradford.—A meeting of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce was held on the 27th April, Mr. James Gordon in the chair. The secretary read a letter from the London Chamber of Commerce, asking the opinion of the Chamber on proposals (1) for the

appointment of a Minister of Mines, and (2) that the payment of royalties upon the gross products of metalliferous Crown mines is injurious to the industry and interests of the country, and that the principle should be adopted for paying the royalties on such mines out of profits. It was decided to acknowledge the receipt of the letter, and to intimate that the council considered the appointment of a Minister of Commerce a more urgent matter than the appointment of a Minister of Mines, but that the matter of the resolution generally was outside the province of the Chamber of Commerce for the worsted district. The question of bimetallism and railway facilities were also discussed.

Bristol.—A meeting of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce was held on the 27th April, Mr. J. R. Bennett in the chair.

A letter was read from the Foreign Office stating that, in consequence of representations having recently passed between Her Majesty's Embassy at Madrid and the Spanish Customs authorities respecting the manner in which certificates of origin should be made out for British goods consigned to Spain, to avoid all difficulties in the matter, it is desired by the Spanish authorities that certificates of origin for British goods should be signed by the exporter or agent despatching the goods, in order that the Spanish Government should have his personal guarantee in support of the accuracy of the declaration contained in the certificate. The certificate should be prepared with the English and Spanish in two distinct columns. The descriptions of goods are stated to be often so general as to make it very difficult to identify the merchandise to which they refer. The descriptions should be in the exact term of the number of the Spanish tariff under which the goods are classified for Customs purposes. Should any difficulties accrue with regard to certificates of origin for Spain, representations should be addressed direct to the Spanish Government; the port or ports to which the goods were despatched should in every case be mentioned.

Other subjects under consideration comprised mining royalties and railway matters.

The annual meeting was held on the 13th April, when the annual report was presented.

Dublin.—A meeting of the council of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce was held on the 11th April, Mr. W. Findlater, D.L., in the chair. The council determined to petition against the various Bills in Parliament having for their object the acquisition of docks by railway companies, believing that it is for the benefit of the commercial public that the control of docks should not be in the hands of railway companies.

Report was made to the council that section 2 of the Deeds of Arrangement Act, 1890, which provides that publicity shall be given to all such arrangements, has been in a number of cases totally ignored by certain solicitors. The council determined to write to the Attorney-General asking him to introduce a short

measure into Parliament rendering penal any evasion of the section referred to.

Glasgow.—The quarterly meeting of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures was held on the 18th April, Mr. Robert Balloch in the chair. The minutes of the Home Affairs Committee with reference to Mr. Goschen's currency proposals were read.

The monthly meeting of the directors of the Chamber was held on the 11th April, Mr. Balloch in the chair. The subjects under discussion were Mr. Goschen's currency proposals, communication between lighthouses and mainland, and the mail service between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Halifax.—A meeting of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce was held on the 27th April, the president, Alderman James Booth, in the chair. It was moved and seconded "that the borough "members be asked to vote against the Companies Act Amend-"ment Bill now before Parliament." A letter was read from the secretary to the Bimetallic League asking the Chamber to join a deputation to wait upon the Prime Minister with reference to this subject.

Keighley.—A meeting of the council of the Keighley and district Chamber of Commerce was held on the 11th April, Mr. J. C. Horsfall in the chair. The minutes of the parliamentary committee were considered, and it was decided to recommend that the support of the Chamber be given to Mr. E. Birkbeck's motion for the improvement of coast communications, to the Limited Partnerships Bill, to the Rating of Machinery Bill, and Private Banks Bill, and that the Chamber oppose the Fire Inquests Bill, Steam Engines (Persons in Charge) Bill, and the Employers' Liability Bill. The question of the decimal system was under consideration, and it was decided to adopt the suggestion of the Associated Chambers of Commerce to bring pressure to bear upon the members of Parliament for the district with a view of securing the general acceptance of the system at as early a date as possible.

Leeds.—A meeting of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce was held on the 27th April, Colonel Harding in the chair.

The chairman said that a letter had been received from a number of British merchants in Swaziland, in which country a large amount of British money is invested, pointing out that unless an outlet for trade could be obtained to the coast the country would be swallowed up by the South African Republic. These gentlemen wished to build a short railway from Swaziland to the coast, and make arrangements for opening out a port. They had offers of the money, and all they asked the Chamber to do was to support a petition to Lord Salisbury for permission to make the railway, and asking that no difficulty should be put in the way of carrying out the scheme.

Mr. Zossenheim moved that the petition be supported, and this was agreed to unanimously.

The chairman referred to the Chicago Exhibition, and said there seemed to be but little interest taken in it in Leeds, and it was proposed and resolved to issue a circular to local manufacturers pointing out that no charge was to be made and that the price in England of the articles to be exhibited might be shown.

Liverpool.—The monthly meeting of the council of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce was held on the 27th April, Mr. C. M'Arthur in the chair.

Communications continue to be received at the Chamber with reference to the subject of electrical communication on the coasts of the United Kingdom. The Admiralty has acknowledged the receipt of a copy of the memorial recently forwarded to the Prime Minister in support of the movement in Parliament headed by Sir E. Birkbeck, whose motion was under discussion on Tuesday night. The Glasgow Chamber has handed to the Liverpool Chamber a copy of a memorial on the subject addressed by that Chamber to the President of the Board of Trade, advocating that "communication between at least all the more important light-"houses and lightships on the coast of the mainland of the "United Kingdom should be effected." The members of Parliament for Glasgow and district have been requested to give the memorial their support.

The question of the carriage of petroleum in bulk on the Suez Canal has been fully considered by the Chamber in conjunction with the Ship and Steamship Owners' and Underwriters' Associations, and it has been decided not to take any action calculated to interfere with the regulations provisionally adopted by the Suez Canal Company.

Among other subjects under discussion were the reform of the circuit system of assizes, ship canal carriage rates, and the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887.

Manchester.—The Board of Directors of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce held its monthly meeting on the 27th April, Mr. J. Thewlis Johnson in the chair. Upon presentation of the minutes of the Yarn Sectional Committee it was stated that, according to reliable information received from Belgrade, a large quantity of short-reeled cotton is still being imported from Austria into the Servian market. Suggestions for preventing the continuance of this fraudulent practice were adopted by the Board.

In a letter received from a member of the Chamber attention was drawn to the practice of describing manufactured wine by such words as "Finest old British sherry, made wine." The opinion of the Board was sought as to the legality of this practice in view of the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887. The question was referred to the Trade and Merchandise Marks Committee of the Chamber.

In a communication from certain London firms the Board was invited to support a movement in favour of the registration of agreements for the hire and purchase of commodities, as bills of sale. It was pointed out that when the Bills of Sale Act was first adopted, hiring agreements were comparatively rare, and the opinion was expressed that the obligation to register was equally necessary, in the public interest, in both kinds of contract. In view of the great importance and complexity of the question thus raised and the possible difficulty of carrying out the suggested alteration, the General Purposes Committee of the Chamber was authorised to examine the proposal thoroughly, and to take such action as it may deem desirable.

Nottingham.—A meeting of the council of the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce was held on the 2nd May, Mr. B. Stiebel in the chair. A resolution passed after the lecture by Mr. A. J. M. Jephson, was read requesting the council to memorialise her Majesty's Government to guarantee the interest on the necessary capital for the construction of the Mombassa railway for a limited number of years provided Captain MacDonald's survey report proved satisfactory, and it was unanimously resolved to do so.

Sheffield.—A special meeting of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce was held on the 28th April, when the subject considered was commercial education. The chair was occupied by the president, Alderman W. H. Brittain.

The monthly meeting of the council of the Chamber was held on the 11th April, Alderman W. H. Brittain in the chair. The Liverpool Chamber having called the attention of the council to the following resolution, which is to be proposed by Mr. W. F. Lawrence in the House of Commons shortly, it was decided to request the secretary to write to the members for Sheffield and the member for Hallamshire, inviting their support to the resolution, which was as follows:—"To call attention to the condition of "British trade on the West Coast of Africa, and to move that "the application of the Hinterland principle universally recognised "in other parts of Africa, as vital to the continued well-being of "the settlements of Sierra Leone and the West coast generally, "should be demanded in the interests of British trade."

The council considered the proposed new Portuguese tariff, the further consideration of which was referred to the committee which had to deal with the Spanish tariff.

The secretary reported that the Steam Engine (Persons in Charge) Bill had again been introduced in Parliament by Messrs. Burt and Fenwick. Inasmuch as the council considered the Bill last year, and were of opinion that it should be opposed if it was likely to pass into law, the secretary was requested to keep watch upon the Bill, in case it should be necessary to take action.

The council also had under consideration the subjects of commercial education, the rating of machinery, secondary education, and the trade of Mexico.

A meeting of the council of the Sheffield Chamber was held on the 5th May, Alderman W. H. Brittain in the chair.

A letter was read from Mr. Howard Vincent, M.P., enclosing a copy of a letter recently addressed by him to the Foreign Office, together with a copy of the reply of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. It was proposed by the President, seconded by Mr. Eskholme, and resolved: "That this Chamber, having had "under consideration a letter from the Foreign Office, and the "reply to the suggestion of the hon. member for Central Sheffield "with regard to the extension of British trade abroad, desires to "thank Lord Salisbury for his intention to issue further instruc-"tions to Her Majesty's diplomatic and consular officers in this "matter, and to express its belief that this course will be attended "with much advantage. The Chamber is further of opinion that "the systematic collection and placing in the Imperial Institute "from time to time of all samples of the various articles in demand "in foreign countries, would be very advantageous to the "commerce of the country."

Wakefield.—A meeting of the council of the Wakefield Chamber of Commerce was held on the 12th April last, Mr. J. Haslegrave in the chair. It was proposed and seconded that a memorial should be presented to the Government to the effect that the Chamber considers the opening up of Central Africa to trade is urgently needed in the interests of British commerce, and that so far as possible an effort should be made to encourage the making of railways from the coast to the interior, and if needful by Government assistance. The discussion on the resolution was deferred until the next meeting.

Walsall.—A meeting of the council of the Walsall Chamber of Commerce was held on the 25th April, Mr. J. Scott in the chair. It was resolved to petition in favour of the Bill for cheapening the procedure in connexion with private Bills. The secretary read a letter from the Bimetallic League, asking the Chamber to join in obtaining a conference of nations as to the demonetisation of silver. The president announced that the new Spanish Customs tariff was a little easier for curriers, but a little worse for harness makers and saddlers. The idea evidently was to give advantage to raw material over manufactured goods.

XXIII.—RECENT TRADE BLUE BOOKS.

1. *Railway Accidents. Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the Year ending 31st December* 1891, *in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act* (1871), 34 & 35 *Vict. cap.* 78, *together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department of the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into.* (*C.*—6603.) *Price* 1*s.* 10*d.*

This is the usual annual statement issued by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade. It shows that during the year ending the 31st of December 1891 accidents to trains, rolling stock, permanent way, &c., caused the death of 17 persons, and injury to 1,029, viz. :—

——	Killed.	Injured.	*Total for the corresponding Period in 1890.*	
			Killed.	*Injured.*
Passengers - - - -	5	875	*18*	*496*
Servants of companies - -	12	154	*12*	*147*
Total - -	17	1,029	*30*	*643*

During the year there were reported 43 collisions between passenger trains or parts of passenger trains, by which 1 passenger and 5 servants were killed and 293 passengers and 25 servants were injured; 69 collisions between passenger trains and goods or mineral trains, &c., by which 3 passengers and 3 servants were killed and 199 passengers and 42 servants injured; 31 collisions between goods trains or parts of goods trains, by which 3 servants were killed and 1 passenger and 37 servants injured; 42 cases of passenger trains or parts of passenger trains leaving the rails, by which 34 passengers and 5 servants were injured; 7 cases of goods trains leaving the rails, by which 1 servant was killed and 3 were injured; 11 cases of trains or engines travelling in the wrong direction through points, by which 35 passengers and 6 servants were injured; 32 cases of trains running into stations or sidings at too high a speed, by which 1 passenger was killed and 172 passengers and 11 servants were injured; 144 cases of trains running over cattle, &c., or other obstructions on the line, by which two passengers were injured; 49 cases of trains running through gates at level crossings, by which 2 servants were injured; 4 cases of the bursting of boilers or tubes, &c.

of engines, by which 4 servants were injured; 10 cases of the failure of machinery, springs, &c. of engines, by which 1 passenger and 1 servant were injured; 229 failures of axles, by which 4 passengers and 1 servant were injured; 5 failures of couplings, by which 5 servants were injured; 5 failures of brake apparatus, by which 19 passengers and 1 servant were injured; 3 cases of the failure of bridges, by which 95 passengers and 4 servants were injured; 256 failures of rails, by which 1 servant was injured; and 6 other accidents, by which 20 passengers and 6 servants were injured.

2. *Board of Agriculture. Agricultural Produce. Statistics of Great Britain, showing the estimated total Produce and Average yield per Acre of the Principal Crops, with Abstract Returns for the United Kingdom.* 1891. (*C.*—6617.) *Price* 4½*d.*

This is an annual statement issued by the Board of Agriculture showing the estimated agricultural produce of Great Britain, with abstract tables for the whole of the United Kingdom.

The return shows that the estimated gross produce and the yield per acre in 1891 of the crops distinguished in these returns for the United Kingdom, exclusive of the Isle of Man and Channel Islands (which render to this office no statistics of produce), are compared in the following table with similar estimates for 1890:—

Crops.	Estimated Total Produce.		Yield per Acre.	
	1891.	1890.	1891.	1890.
	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.	Bushels.
Wheat	74,742,700	75,993,883	31·30	30·66
Barley	79,555,089	80,793,525	34·72	35·23
Oats	166,472,428	171,295,404	40·46	41·54
Beans	10,694,376	11,859,633	29·83	32·77
Peas	5,777,445	6,312,910	28·23	28·71
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Potatoes	6,090,047	4,622,214	4·74	3·53
Turnips	29,741,587	32,002,201	13·40	14·27
Mangold	7,558,216	6,708,886	18·60	17·76
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Hay from clover, sainfoin, &c.	85,566,162	97,045,740	31·39	33·19
Hay from permanent pasture	167,862,776	192,275,600	28·13	30·81
Hops	436,716	283,629	7·78	5·26

The estimated results when thus contrasted show that the aggregate contribution made by the British and Irish crops of 1891 to the food supply of the population and the live stock of the United Kingom, has been on the whole less than in 1890. Less wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas, and turnips, and very considerably less hay, is reported to be available this year than last. Against these reductions it is true an increased production of hops, mangold, and potatoes has to be set. The potato increase

occurred almost wholly in Ireland, where this crop has yielded four tons to the acre in place of 2¼ tons in 1890. The reduced produce in most other items is largely due to the smaller acreage under certain crops, to which attention was drawn in the Agricultural Returns for the past year. Thus, while the estimated yield per acre of the wheat crop is reported somewhat to exceed that of 1890, there were over 90,000 fewer acres carrying wheat in the United Kingdom. In the case of hay, a series of lower yields, and, it may be added, a generally poor condition, are rendered still more important by the large reduction of wellnigh half a million acres in the surface mown in 1891.

3. *Canals and Navigations. Return of the Names and Addresses of the Owners of Canals and Navigations who have deposited at the Board of Trade a Revised Classification of Merchandise Traffic and a Revised Schedule of Maximum Rates, Tolls, Dues, and Charges in compliance with Sections* 24 *and* 36 *of the Railway and Canal Traffic Act,* 1888. (*C.*—6618.) *Price* 1*d.*

This is a return issued by the Railway Department of the Board of Trade. It is divided into two parts, the first of which gives in detail the names and addresses of the owners of Canals and Navigations which belong to persons, companies, or associations other than railway companies, whilst the second gives the names of the different Canals and Navigations which belong to the various railway companies.

4. *Hours of Adult Labour* (*Colonies*). *Return showing any Laws or Regulations affecting the Hours of Adult Labour in each of the Colonies, also showing in each Colony the Hours worked per Day and Wages paid in various Industries so far as the same can be ascertained.* 115. *Price* 7*d.*

This is a return issued by the Colonial Office, and contains the replies in answer to a circular letter dated the 20th of December 1890, issued by Lord Knutsford to the Governors of Colonies under Responsible Government. The return gives in extenso the replies received from the Governors of the various colonies to which the circular letter was addressed.

5. *Correspondence respecting Commercial Treaties and Tariffs. Commercial, No.* 3 (1892). (*C.*—6590.) *Price* 4*s.* 3*d.*

This is a return issued by the Foreign Office. It contains the full text of communications by that Department from Her Majesty's Representatives and others abroad with reference to the Treaties and Tariffs of the countries in which they reside. The countries referred to in the present issue are as follows :—

Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany and Austria, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Spain, Sweden and Norway, Switzerland, and the United States.

The Third and Fourth Reports of the Trade and Treaties Committee are printed as Appendices.

6. *Pauperism (England and Wales). Return (A.). Comparative Statement of Pauperism. February* 1892. 78 (*A.* 1). *Price* 1½*d.*

This is the usual monthly statement issued by the Local Government Board. It shows that the number of persons (excluding lunatics in asylums and licensed houses, and vagrants) relieved in England and Wales on the last day in each week of the month of February was as follows:—First week, 700,411; second week, 699,949; third week, 699,058; fourth week, 696,547. The number of paupers in receipt of relief in February 1892 was, notwithstanding the increase in population, smaller than the number relieved in the corresponding month in any of the 35 preceding years except in the years 1891 and 1877.

7. *Weights and Measures. Descriptive List of Standards of Weight and Measure deposited with the Board of Trade and of the Instrumental Equipment of the Standards Office.* (*C.*—6541 *Price* 2*d.*

This return is issued by the Standards Department of the Board of Trade. It contains a descriptive list of Imperial standards, historical standards, metric standards, weighing and measuring instruments, &c.

The Imperial standards of weight and measure now in use are divided into three categories, viz., primary standards, secondary, or Board of Trade standards, and auxiliary standards. There follows a full and scientific description of each of the instruments referred to.

8. *Coal Cinders, &c.* 116. *Price* 1*d.*

This is a return to an Order of the House of Commons for accounts of the quantities of coal cinders and patent fuel shipped at the several ports of England, Scotland, and Ireland coastways to other ports of the United Kingdom in the year 1891; of the quantities and declared value of coals, cinders, and patent fuel exported from the several ports of England, Scotland, and Ireland to foreign countries and the British settlements abroad in the year 1891, distinguishing the countries to which the same were sent of the quantities of coals, cinders, and patent fuel exported from the United Kingdom in the year 1891; of the quantities of coals and patent fuel brought coastways into the port of London during the year 1891; and of the quantities of coals and patent fuels received coastways at the various ports of the United Kingdom.

9. *Declaration between the Governments of Great Britain and Belgium respecting the North Sea Fisheries. Treaty Series, No.* 1, 1892. (*C.*—6587.) *Price* ½*d.*

This is a convention between Great Britain and Belgium for the purpose of simplifying the procedure for the settlement of of differences between British and Belgian fishermen in the North Sea outside territorial waters, and of reducing the injuries they

may sustain from the fouling of their fishing gear. The Convention was signed at Brussels on the 2nd May 1891, and ratifications were exchanged on the 26th of August of the same year.

10. *Declaration between the Governments of Great Britain and France for the Regulation of the Telephonic Service between the two Countries. Treaty Series, No.* 2, 1892. (*C.*—6588.) *Price* ½*d.*

This is an agreement between the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of France and the Postmaster-General for the purpose of regulating the telephonic service between France and Great Britain. The agreement was signed in London on the 19th of November 1891.

11. *Treaty between Great Britain and Spain for the Suppression of the African Slave Trade. Treaty Series, No.* 3, 1892. (*C.*—6592.) *Price* ½*d.*

This is a treaty whereby the respective countries engage to prohibit all trade in slaves carried on either by their respective subjects or under their respective flags, or by means of capital belonging to their respective subjects, and to punish all persons engaged in such traffic. The treaty was signed in Brussels on the 2nd of July 1890, ratifications being exchanged on the 23rd of December of the same year.

12. *Protocol between Great Britain and Uruguay for the Mutual Extradition of Fugitive Criminals. Treaty Series, No.* 4, 1892. (*C.*—6593.) *Price* ½*d.*

This protocol amends the treaty of March 26th, 1884, for the extradition of fugitive criminals. It was signed at Monte Video on the 20th of March 1891, ratifications being exchanged on the 17th of July of the same year.

13. *Agreement between Great Britain and Tonga relative to the Trial of British Subjects by the Tongan Courts. Treaty Series, No.* 5, 1892. (*C.*—6594.) *Price* ½*d.*

This agreement provides that if any British subject is charged with the violation of any law or regulation in Tonga, relating to Customs, taxation, public health, or local police, not recognisable as an offence against British law, he shall be amenable to the jurisdiction of the Tongan courts. The agreement was signed at Nukualofa on the 2nd of June 1891.

14. *Agreements between the British and Persian Governments relative to Telegraphic Communication between Europe and India. Treaty Series, No.* 6, 1892. (*C.*—6631.) *Price* ½*d.*

These agreements prolong the existing conventions between the two countries relative to telegraphic communications through Persia. The agreements were signed at Teheran on the 7th of January 1892.

15. *General Act of the Brussels Conference relative to the African Slave Trade. Treaty Series, No.* 7, 1892. (*C.*—6557.) *Price* 5½*d.*

This paper contains the rules and regulations passed by the Brussels International Conference for the better suppression of the African slave trade.

16. *Seventh Report of the Trade and Treaties Committee, with Appendix containing Translation of the French Customs Tariff Law of the* 11*th of January* 1892, *showing the Duties now leviable under the New General and Minimum Tariffs of* 1892, *and those levied under the Conventional Tariff of* 1882. (*C.*—6641.) *Price* 6*d.*

This is the seventh report of the Committee appointed to consider the approaching expiry of various European commercial treaties, the probable effects of such expiry, and the arrangements which may be made in lieu of these treaties upon British trade, and to report thereon from time to time to Her Majesty's Government. In addition to the report setting forth the probable effect of the new French tariff on British trade, the present return contains a translation of that tariff in full, together with a translation of the text of the law establishing the new general Customs tariff and an introduction to the tariff pointing out the changes introduced by that law which chiefly concerns British trade.

17. *Ninth Report of the Trade and Treaties Committee, with Appendices containing translation of the Tariffs annexed to the Treaties between various Central European Powers, comparing the new Rates of Duty with those hitherto leviable, in each of the Countries concerned, on importations from the United Kingdom.* (*C.*—6648.) *Price* 7½*d.*

This is the ninth report of the Committee referred to above. It gives, in addition to a statement showing the new and the old rates of duty leviable in Central European countries on imports from the United Kingdom, the observations and remarks of the Committee in question as to the effect of the treaties made between the different States and their bearing on British trade. It is to be observed that the general tendency of the new tariffs in Central European countries is towards the decreasing of Customs rates.

XXIV.—QUARANTINE NOTICES.

RUSSIA.—Quarantine at Odessa against arrivals from Syria is remitted.

GERMANY.—Scarlet fever and diphtheria have broken out among the Jewish families in the emigration barracks at Eydtkuhnen.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—The medical inspection on arrivals at Trieste from the Syrian coast, between Adalia and Jaffa (both inclusive), is now abolished.

GREECE.—The medical inspection on arrivals from the Syrian coast, between Mersina and Jaffa, is suppressed.

TURKEY.—In consequence of the outbreak of cholera at Harrar, in Abyssinia, five days' quarantine has been imposed on arrivals from Zeila.

MALTA.—Vessels with pilgrims from the East, or having had cases of cholera on board, as well as all vessels having, or having had, on board cases of diarrhœa, which, in the opinion of the quarantine medical officer, may be presumed to indicate cholera, shall not be permitted to enter the harbour of Malta.

Vessels coming from Rio de Janeiro or other ports, when cases of yellow fever have taken place on board, shall not be permitted to enter the harbour, except, if necessary, to coal in strict quarantine, and on condition that they leave afterwards with the least possible delay.

Vessels coming from ports known to be infected with yellow fever are to be subjected to 14 days' quarantine, and to be disinfected, unless they have been disinfected at an intermediate port.

XXV.—POST OFFICE NOTICES.

Mails for the West and South-West Coasts of Africa.

The following table shows the ports of call for the mail packets leaving Liverpool for the West and South-West Coasts of Africa during the remainder of the month of May 1892:—

Saturday, 21st May.—Madeira, Teneriffe, Grand Canary, Isles do Los, Sierra Leone, Sherbro, Grand Bassa, Kroo Coast, Grand Bassam, Axim, Cape Coast Castle, Accra, Quitta, Lagos or Forcados, Benin, Warree, Brass, and Akassa.

Saturday, 28th May.—Grand Canary, Goree, Dakar, Bathurst, Sierra Leone, Sherbro, Monrovia, Kroo Coast, Half Jack, Cape Coast Castle, Salt Pond, Accra, Addah, Little Popo, Grand Popo, Lagos, Opobo, and New Calabar.

Mails for Japan and China *vid* San Francisco.

The following are the dates appointed for the despatch of the mails for Japan and China by way of San Francisco during the remainder of this year:—

By the Packet leaving Queenstown.	For the Packet leaving San Francisco.
Thursday - -	19 May.	2 June.
Sunday - -	29 May.	14 June.
Sunday - -	12 June.	25 June.
Thursday - -	23 June.	7 July.
Thursday - -	3 July.	19 July.
Thursday - -	17 July.	30 July.
Thursday - -	28 July.	11 August.
Sunday - -	7 August.	23 August.
Sunday - -	21 August.	3 September.
Thursday - -	1 September.	15 September.
Thursday - -	15 September.	28 September.
Sunday - -	25 September.	11 October.
Sunday - -	9 October.	22 October.
Thursday - -	20 October.	3 November.
Sunday - -	30 October.	15 November.
Thursday - -	13 November.	26 November.
Thursday - -	24 November.	8 December.
Sunday - -	4 December.	20 December.
Sunday - -	18 December.	31 December.

Correspondence intended for transmission by this route must be specially superscribed "*vid* San Francisco."

XXVI.—STATISTICAL TABLES.

I.—Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom.

Statement of the Imports into and of the Exports from the United Kingdom during the month and four months, ended 30th April 1892, compared with the corresponding periods of the year 1891.

Month ended 30th April.

I. Imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

	Month ended 30th April		Increase.	Decrease.
	1892.	1891.		
	£	£	£	£
I. Animals living (for food)	745,861	551,057	194,804	—
II. (A.) Articles of food and drink, duty free	11,148,300	13,547,233	—	2,398,933
(B.) Articles of food and drink, dutiable	2,415,608	2,033,998	381,610	—
Tobacco, dutiable	262,235	347,779	—	85,544
III. Metals	1,837,214	2,072,814	—	235,600
IV. Chemicals, dyestuffs, and tanning substances	783,674	843,379	—	59,705
V. Oils	608,168	484,974	123,194	—
VI. Raw materials for textile manufactures	7,401,977	8,970,138	—	1,568,161
VII. Raw materials for sundry industries and manufactures	2,942,160	3,120,869	—	178,709
VIII. Manufactured articles	5,465,304	5,714,743	—	249,439
IX. (A.) Miscellaneous articles	1,261,333	1,265,602	—	5,269
(B.) Parcel post	48,438	28,951	19,487	—
Total Value	34,920,272	38,983,537	—	4,062,265

II. Exports of British and Irish Produce and Manufactures.

	£	£	£	£
I. Animals, living	43,674	57,055	—	13,381
II. Articles of food and drink	751,253	845,077	—	93,824
III. Raw materials	1,559,671	1,913,177	—	353,506
IV. Articles manufactured and partly manufactured, viz.:—				
(A.) Yarns and textile fabrics	7,134,633	8,187,775	—	1,053,142
(B.) Metals and articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery)	3,179,216	3,663,725	—	484,509
(C.) Machinery and millwork	1,358,339	1,434,124	—	75,785
(D.) Apparel and articles of personal use	720,057	835,907	—	115,850
(E.) Chemicals, and chemical and medicinal preparations	677,211	800,492	—	123,281
(F.) All other articles, either manufactured or partly manufactured	2,367,571	3,091,150	—	723,579
(G.) Parcel post	74,251	90,584	—	16,333
Total Value	17,865,876	20,919 066	—	3,053,190

III. Exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce.

	£	£	£	£
Total Value	5,545,838	5,535,152	10,686	—

I.—Foreign Trade of the United Kingdom—*cont.*

Four Months ended 30th April.

I. Imports from Foreign Countries and British Possessions.

	Four Months ended 30th April		Increase.	Decrease.
	1892.	*1891.*		
	£	£	£	£
I. Animals, living (for food)	2,769,893	*2,303,220*	466,673	—
II. (A.) Articles of food and drink, duty free	46,335,744	*43,842,096*	2,493,648	—
(B.) Articles of food and drink, dutiable	8,773,879	*8,201,774*	572,105	—
Tobacco, dutiable	1,080,238	*1,100,524*	—	20,286
III. Metals	7,262,128	*7,511,483*	—	249,355
IV. Chemicals, dyestuffs, and tanning substances	3,316,645	*3,267,119*	49,526	—
V. Oils	2,305,569	*2,178,189*	127,380	—
VI. Raw materials for textile manufactures	34,953,553	*35,752,129*	—	799,576
VII. Raw materials for sundry industries and manufactures	10,371,502	*10,272,110*	99,392	—
VIII. Manufactured articles	22,322,439	*22,023,802*	298,637	—
IX. (A.) Miscellaneous articles	5,329,222	*4,542,343*	786,879	—
(B.) Parcel post	194,379	*190,919*	3,460	—
Total Value	145,014,191	*141,185,699*	3,828,492	—

II. Exports of British and Irish Produce and Manufactures.

	£	£	£	£
I. Animals, living	160,366	*143,575*	16,791	—
II. Articles of food and drink	2,966,948	*3,155,116*	—	188,168
II. Raw materials	5,732,157	*6,567,922*	—	835,765
IV. Articles manufactured and partly manufactured, viz.:—				
(A.) Yarns and textile fabrics	34,571,288	*36,422,789*	—	1,851,501
(B.) Metals and articles manufactured therefrom (except machinery)	11,203,057	*13,443,710*	—	2,240,653
(C.) Machinery and millwork	4,876,834	*5,085,725*	—	208,891
(D.) Apparel and articles of personal use	3,702,172	*3,697,026*	5,146	—
(E.) Chemicals, and chemical and medicinal preparations	2,924,528	*3,113,222*	—	188,694
(F.) All other articles, either manufactured or partly manufactured	9,552,665	*10,934,461*	—	1,381,796
(G.) Parcel post	316,700	*323,834*	—	7,134
Total Value	76,006,715	*82,887,380*	—	6,880,665

III. Exports of Foreign and Colonial Produce.

	£	£	£	£
Total Value	20,969,645	*21,722,627*	—	752,982

II.—Corn Prices.

Return of the Quantities sold and Average Prices of British Corn, Imperial Measure, as received from the Inspectors and Officers of Excise during the under-mentioned periods.

Periods.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	Quantities sold.		
	Qrs. bus.	Qrs. bus.	Qrs. bus.
Week ended 2nd April 1892	59,834 3	30,795 3	8,812 1
„ 9th „ „	48,469 5	22,546 0	6,334 7
„ 16th „ „	47,569 6	16,546 6	5,470 6
„ 23rd „ „	39,319 0	6,880 3	3,774 7
„ 30th „ „	57,354 2	11,730 2	4,239 4
April 1892	252,547 0	88,500 2	28,632 1
Corresponding month in 1891	*289,243 6*	*102,163 7*	*42,365 6*
„ „ *1890*	*279,293 0*	*53,792 2*	*32,927 5*
	Average Prices.		
	s. d.	*s. d.*	*s. d.*
Week ended 2nd April 1892	32 0	27 8	20 5
„ 9th „ „	31 4	26 11	20 2
„ 16th „ „	30 7	26 10	20 7
„ 23rd „ „	30 8	25 11	20 7
„ 30th „ „	31 3	26 7	21 0
April 1892	31 2	26 9	20 6
March 1892	*32 11*	*27 8*	*20 4*
February „	*32 6*	*28 2*	*19 11*
January „	*35 4*	*29 2*	*20 6*
December 1891	*37 6*	*29 11*	*21 5*
November „	*37 10*	*31 0*	*21 7*
October „	*35 0*	*29 6*	*18 9*
September „	*38 5*	*28 6*	*20 2*
August „	*39 9*	*26 2*	*21 4*
July „	*38 6*	*26 1*	*21 3*
June „	*39 9*	*27 6*	*21 1*
May „	*40 4*	*27 8*	*21 10*
April 1891	*38 3*	*27 8*	*19 5*
„ *1890*	*29 10*	*29 8*	*18 4*
„ *1889*	*29 10*	*25 0*	*17 6*
„ *1888*	*30 4*	*30 4*	*15 11*

III.—Emigration.—April 1892.

Return of the Numbers, Nationalities, and Destinations of the Passengers that left the United Kingdom for Places out of Europe during the Month ended 30th April 1892, and the Four Months ended 30th April 1892, compared with the corresponding Periods of the previous Year.

Nationalities.	United States.	British North America.	Australasia.	Cape of Good Hope and Natal.	All other Places.	Total.	*Total for corresponding Month, 1891.*
	Month ended 30th April.						
English	7,986	2,814	632	723	510	12,685	*14,259*
Scotch	1,998	273	102	138	80	2,651	*2,762*
Irish	11,959	182	144	18	23	12,326	*13,399*
Total of British origin	21,943	3,269	958	879	613	27,662	*30,248*
Foreigners	12,888	2,625	19	126	83	15,741	*15,115*
Nationalities not distinguished	—	—	—	—	296	296	*283*
Total	34,831	5,894	977	1,005	992	43,699	*45,646*
Total for corresponding Month, 1891	*36,507*	*5,140*	*1,585*	*843*	*1,367*	*45,642*	—
	Four Months ended 30th April.						
English	21,889	5,558	3,613	2,547	2,379	35,986	*36,396*
Scotch	4,136	586	771	248	417	6,158	*6,148*
Irish	17,126	282	704	47	188	18,347	*19,497*
Total of British origin	43,151	6,426	5,088	2,842	2,984	60,491	*62,031*
Foreigners	30,972	4,270	99	361	307	36,009	*32,738*
Nationalities not distinguished	—	—	—	—	1,245	1,245	*1,148*
Total	74,123	10,696	5,187	3,203	4,536	97,745	*95,917*
Total for corresponding Months, 1891	*70,332*	*9,330*	*5,603*	*2,969*	*5,681*	*95,917*	—

Note.—The above figures, being made up at the earliest possible date after the close of each month, are subject to correction in the Annual Returns.

IV.—Alien Immigration.

Return of the Number of Aliens arrived from the Continent at Ports* in the United Kingdom during the Month, and Three Months ended 31st March 1892, compared with the corresponding Periods of the previous Year.

(Compiled from the Alien Lists received by the Customs under Act 6 Will. 4. c. 11. sect. 2.)

—	Gothenburg.		Hamburg.		Christiania, Arendal, and Christiansand.		Other Continental Ports.		Total.	
	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*
	Month ended 31st March.									
Aliens not stated to be *en route* to America:† Arrived at London	74	*75*	747	*899*	46	*89*	206	*196*	1,073	*939*
„ Grimsby	—	—	199	*45*	—	—	29	*49*	228	*94*
„ Hull	30	*23*	60	*29*	50	*52*	141	*71*	281	*175*
„ Tyne Ports (Newcastle, North and South Shields)	4	*9*	12	*18*	179	*283*	149	*482*	344	*792*
„ Leith	—	—	105	*20*	4	—	35	*108*	144	*128*
„ Other ports	29	*12*	113	*135*	129	*164*	438	*383*	709	*694*
Total	137	*119*	1,236	*846*	408	*588*	998	*1,289*	2,779	*2,842*
Aliens *en route* to America: Arrived at Grimsby	—	—	992	*951*	—	—	714	*414*	1,706	*1,365*
„ Hartlepool, West	—	—	587	*668*	—	—	—	—	587	*668*
„ Hull	3,281	*3,432*	777	*801*	1,150	*1,065*	2,700	*2,322*	7,908	*7,820*
„ Leith	—	—	890	*708*	—	—	807	*538*	1,697	*1,246*
„ Other ports	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	37	—
Total	3,281	*3,432*	3,246	*3,128*	1,150	*1,065*	4,258	*3,474*	11,935	*11,099*
Total of aliens *en route* and of aliens not stated to be *en route* to America†	3,418	*3,551*	4,482	*3,974*	1,558	*1,653*	5,256	*4,763*	14,714	*13,941*
	Three Months ended 31st March.									
Aliens not stated to be *en route* to America: Total No.	415	*337*	3,147	*2,083*	1,087	*1,227*	2,948	*2,949*	7,597	*6,596*
Aliens *en route* to America: Total No.	4,619	*4,694*	7,579	*5,931*	1,541‡	*1,387*	6,048	*4,823*	19,787	*16,832*
Total of aliens *en route* and of aliens not stated to be *en route* to America†	5,034	*5,018*	10,726	*8,014*	2,628	*2,614*	8,996	*7,772*	27,384	*23,418*

* The ports from which alien lists are received are Aberdeen, Belfast, Bristol, Dover, Dublin, Folkestone, Glasgow, Goole, Grangemouth, Granton, Greenock, Grimsby, Harwich, Hull, Kirkcaldy, Leith, Liverpool, London, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields, Southampton, Sunderland, and West Hartlepool. The lists received from Dover, Folkestone, Harwich, and Southampton show only deck passengers and persons who, after landing, proceed by train as third-class passengers.

† The distinction made in this return between "Aliens not stated to be *en route* to America" and "Aliens *en route* to America" is due to the fact that the great majority of aliens who arrive from continental ports are reported to be on the way to America, and it is considered desirable to record this fact. But it is not thereby implied that the "Aliens not stated to be *en route* to America" come to this country for settlement, there being in fact a large emigration of foreigners from this country, while many of the aliens arriving from continental ports return to the Continent (*see* Annual Report on Emigration and Immigration, No. 147. sess. 1891, and Monthly Emigration Returns).

V.—Bankruptcy.—England and Wales.

Number of Receiving Orders Gazetted in the under-mentioned Periods and in the under-mentioned Principal Trades and Occupations.

	April		Four months ended April	
	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*
	No.	*No.*	No.	*No.*
Total gazetted	383	*323*	1,613	*1,303*
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations:—				
Grocers, &c.	41	*25*	136	*97*
Publicans and hotel keepers, &c.	21	*25*	124	*92*
Builders	16	*14*	78	*72*
Farmers	20	*15*	73	*61*
Boot and shoe manufacturers and dealers	18	*9*	61	*43*
Butchers	8	*8*	43	*32*
Bakers	6	*8*	43	*32*
Tailors, &c.	9	*6*	36	*24*
Drapers, haberdashers, &c.	9	*3*	35	*22*
Coal and coke merchants and dealers	6	*2*	26	*12*
Provision merchants, &c.	8	*6*	25	*16*
Decorators, painters, plumbers, &c.	6	*8*	24	*27*
Agents, commission and general	8	*6*	22	*24*
Clerks, commercial and general	4	*5*	20	*22*
Carpenters and joiners	7	*2*	20	*19*
Corn, flour, seed, hay and straw merchants and dealers	3	*2*	18	*15*
Jewellers, watchmakers, importers, silversmiths, &c.	—	*3*	16	*6*
China, glass, and earthenware, &c. dealers	4	*3*	15	*6*
Carriers, carmen, lightermen, and hauliers	3	*4*	15	*8*
Auctioneers	3	*4*	14	*13*
Solicitors	2	*4*	14	*8*
Fishmongers, poulterers, &c.	7	*3*	14	*14*
Greengrocers, fruiterers, &c.	1	*8*	14	*19*
General dealers	5	*3*	13	*9*
Saddlers and harness makers	5	*1*	13	*8*
Dairymen, cowkeepers, &c.	2	*3*	12	*14*
Ironmongers	4	*1*	12	*3*
Wine and spirit merchants, &c.	2	—	12	*4*
Millers	3	*2*	12	*6*
Engineers and founders, &c.	2	*1*	11	*12*
Gardeners, florists, &c.	3	*3*	11	*5*
Merchants	1	*2*	10	*14*
Travellers, commercial, &c.	3	*2*	10	*6*
Contractors	—	—	10	*5*
Cabinet-makers and upholsterers	2	*2*	9	*13*
Tobacconists, &c.	2	*3*	9	*7*
Confectioners	2	*3*	9	*7*
Blacksmiths, farriers, &c.	2	*4*	9	*10*
Stationers	3	*1*	9	*5*
Printers and publishers	3	*2*	9	*9*
Clothiers, outfitters, &c.	2	*5*	8	*10*
Milliners, dressmakers, &c.	4	*1*	8	*6*
Timber merchants and wood dealers	3	*2*	8	*12*
Wheelwrights	4	—	7	*3*

	April		Four months ended April	
	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*
Number gazetted in principal trades and occupations—*cont.*	No.	*No.*	No.	*No.*
Furniture dealers and makers	3	*2*	6	*7*
Lodging-house keepers	1	*1*	6	*4*
Restaurant, coffee, and eating-house keepers	—	—	6	*4*
Woollen merchants, manufacturers, &c.	1	*2*	6	*5*
Curriers, tanners, and leather merchants	3	2	5	*8*
Carriage, &c. builders	1	*1*	5	*6*
Brewers and beer merchants	1	*2*	5	*6*
Agents, financial	1	—	5	*4*
Chemists, druggists, and chemical manufacturers	2	*3*	4	*11*
Brokers, stock and share	—	*3*	4	*7*
Schoolmasters and schoolmistresses	2	*3*	4	*7*
Officers in Army	1	*1*	4	*3*
Hairdressers	—	*3*	4	*5*
Hosiers, glovers, &c.	3	*1*	4	*6*
Surgeons	—	*2*	4	*6*
Architects and surveyors	—	—	4	*4*
Cattle and pig dealers	—	—	4	*5*
Warehousemen	1	*1*	3	*2*
Stone, marble, and monumental masons	2	*1*	3	*4*
Oil and colour merchants	—	4	3	*8*
Colliers, miners, &c.	—	*2*	2	*6*
Hatters	1	*1*	2	*5*

VI.—Export of Live Animals from Ireland to Great Britain.

Return of the Number of Animals exported from Ireland to Great Britain during the month ended 30th April 1892, and during the first Four Months of the Year 1892, compared with the corresponding periods of the Year 1891.

Animals.	April		Four months ended April	
	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*
	No.	*No.*	No.	*No.*
Cattle	35,986	*30,278*	127,874	*130,863*
Sheep	23,761	*10,384*	83,904	*38,086*
Swine	44,328	*41,834*	103,907	*223,166*
Goats	1,450	*1,151*	1,949	*1,706*
Horses	3,761	*2,624*	4,429	*7,297*
Mules or Jennets	1	*1*	3	*4*
Asses	94	*88*	125	*149*
Total	109.381	*86,360*	414,201	*401,271*

VII.—Fishery Statistics.—England and Wales.

Statement of the Total Quantity and Value of the Fish returned as landed on the English and Welsh Coasts from the fishing grounds during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April 1892, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1891.

—	April		Four Months ended April	
	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*
	Quantity.			
	Cwts.	*Cwts.*	Cwts.	*Cwts.*
Brill	1,496	*1,339*	5,845	*6,542*
Soles	5,016	*6,540*	18,752	*31,853*
Turbot	5,200	*4,559*	18,094	*19,035*
Prime fish, not separately distinguished	3,652	*2,551*	15,064	*12,470*
Total prime fish	15,364	*14,989*	57,755	*69,900*
Cod	44,766	*33,209*	152,444	*143,464*
Haddock	136,343	*103,382*	604,331	*541,462*
Hake	8,396	*1,699*	19,618	*9,770*
Halibut	9,734	*9,936*	20,418	*17,343*
Herrings	13,003	*15,985*	37,747	*55,909*
Ling	11,847	*7,779*	39,439	*34,332*
Mackerel	66,195	*79,027*	73,984	*90,224*
Pilchards	144	—	3,774	*4,779*
Plaice	52,318	*69,869*	161,984	*197,751*
Sprats	129	*178*	11,103	*97,745*
All other, except shell fish	72,982	*72,080*	300,747	*315,895*
Total	431,221	*408,933*	1,483,344	*1,578,374*
Shell fish:—	No.		No.	
Crabs	783,499	*528,824*	1,206,672	*949,369*
Lobsters	79,647	*56,640*	185,347	*130,401*
Oysters	2,570,000	*2,514,000*	11,021,000	*14,795,000*
Other shell fish	Cwts. 49,538	*Cwts. 60,274*	Cwts. 178,677	*Cwts. 226,222*
	Value.			
	£	£	£	£
Brill	4,134	*3,124*	16,679	*14,783*
Soles	36,609	*43,540*	134,942	*186,707*
Turbot	19,463	*19,241*	74,666	*76,026*
Prime fish, not separately distinguished	11,898	*9,051*	49,084	*40,006*
Total prime fish	72,104	*74,956*	275,371	*317,522*
Cod	32,135	*22,933*	114,615	*104,030*
Haddock	86,730	*73,829*	365,429	*367,440*
Hake	8,079	*1,592*	19,259	*9,244*
Halibut	22,831	*27,809*	53,664	*52,335*
Herrings	3,116	*6,731*	10,706	*22,800*
Ling	8,991	*5,334*	32,942	*26,162*
Mackerel	92,006	*121,977*	102,434	*141,570*
Pilchards	21	—	723	*1,226*
Plaice	53,827	*66,108*	192,421	*206,745*
Sprats	11	*13*	1,697	*9,018*
All other, except shell fish	59,076	*62,198*	229,208	*222,452*
Total	438,897	*443,687*	1,398,469	*1,480,564*
Shell fish:—				
Crabs	7,578	*5,344*	11,871	*9,661*
Lobsters	3,682	*2,749*	9,116	*6,382*
Oysters	8,521	*7,929*	39,193	*42,365*
Other shell fish	14,200	*17,753*	44,627	*53,718*
Total	34,041	*33,775*	104,807	*112,126*
Total value of fish landed	472,938	*477,462*	1,503,276	*1,592,690*

Note.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Returns. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

VIII.—Fishery Statistics.—Scotland.

Statement of the Total Quantity and Value of the Fish returned as landed on the Scotch Coasts during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April 1892, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1891.

	April		Four Months ended April	
	1892.	*1891.*	1892.	*1891.*
	Quantity.			
	Cwts.	*Cwts.*	Cwts.	*Cwts.*
Soles (Lemon Soles)	2,476	*1,891*	5,391	*4,269*
Turbot	496	*523*	1,460	*1,543*
Cod	53,596	*67,847*	194,949	*221,330*
Eel	955	*1,268*	4,770	*5,468*
Flounder, Plaice, Brill	5,743	*6,841*	25,967	*30,300*
Haddock	54,368	*60,356*	311,676	*357,449*
Halibut	6,023	*5,209*	8,634	*6,770*
Herrings	3,634	*2,561*	125,800	*178,111*
Ling	27,922	*47,270*	70,684	*80,539*
Mackerel	—	—	12	—
Saith (Coal Fish)	4,602	*5,475*	20,073	*19,784*
Skate	13,414	*9,716*	27,239	*24,448*
Sparling	10	*14*	62	*113*
Sprats	595	*10*	5,466	*490*
Torsk (Tusk)	1,458	*1,668*	1,895	*1,885*
Whiting	4,179	*5,629*	17,940	*24,380*
All other, except shell fish	8,244	*8,950*	31,965	*43,538*
Total	187,720	*224,203*	853,983	*1,000,939*
Shell fish:—	No.	*No.*	No.	*No.*
Crabs	447,568	*284,325*	706,734	*498,495*
Lobsters	74,069	*62,136*	185,285	*138,405*
Oysters	12,300	*45,700*	166,200	*172,000*
	Cwts.	*Cwts.*	Cwts.	*Cwts.*
Clams	2,702	*2,935*	10,299	*16,370*
Mussels	18,847	*15,261*	87,731	*74,693*
Other shell fish	6,866	*6,462*	26,772	*21,849*
	Value.			
	£	£	£	£
Soles (Lemon Soles)	4,211	*3,054*	10,516	*7,903*
Turbot	1,357	*1,593*	4,232	*4,985*
Cod	21,108	*22,673*	80,905	*91,974*
Eel	493	*668*	2,328	*2,855*
Flounder, Plaice, Brill	4,173	*4,985*	22,146	*25,095*
Haddock	31,425	*32,997*	162,976	*165,243*
Halibut	6,738	*4,325*	10,344	*6,531*
Herrings	699	*514*	29,679	*41,932*
Ling	8,783	*13,758*	24,375	*26,813*
Mackerel	—	—	5	—
Saith (Coal Fish)	615	*732*	2,996	*2,599*
Skate	2,778	*2,912*	6,925	*5,761*
Sparling	58	*80*	368	*640*
Sprats	68	*8*	685	*69*
Torsk (Tusk)	229	*257*	319	*332*
Whiting	2,279	*2,583*	9,276	*10,929*
All other, except shell fish	1,796	*1,678*	7,992	*7,816*
Total	86,810	*92,132*	375,167	*401,489*
Shell fish:—				
Crabs	2,751	*1,647*	4,252	*2,774*
Lobsters	3,537	*3,492*	9,109	*8,264*
Oysters	54	*179*	777	*726*
Clams	347	*382*	1,438	*1,940*
Mussels	1,136	*900*	4,919	*4,076*
Other shell fish	1,549	*1,264*	5,052	*4,035*
Total	9,374	*7,764*	25,547	*21,879*
Total value of fish landed	96,184	*99,916*	400,714	*423,368*

Note.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Returns.

IX.—Fishery Statistics.—Ireland.

Statement of the Total Quantity and Value of the Fish returned as landed on the Irish Coasts during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April 1892, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1891.

	April		Four months ended April	
	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.
	Quantity.			
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Soles	609	525	1,856	1,481
Turbot	199	109	568	439
Total prime fish	808	634	2,424	1,920
Cod	3,896	4,337	21,932	24,905
Haddock	1,718	1,410	9,486	8,358
Hake	262	340	1,477	1,311
Herrings	174	69	1,688	1,195
Ling	2,512	1,897	11,245	8,064
Mackerel	46,965	66,121	47,482	68,737
Sprats	—	—	—	2,100
Whiting	611	887	5,021	5,890
All other, except shell fish	2,787	5,080	12,751	21,396
Total	59,733	80,795	113,506	144,101
Shell fish:—	No.	No.	No.	No.
Crabs	24,060	22,400	32,750	28,510
Lobsters	11,200	10,200	24,450	21,414
Oysters	471,210	496,700	716,400	898,240
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Other shell fish	1,156	765	5,168	3,515
	Value.			
	£	£	£	£
Soles	2,273	2,041	8,452	6,918
Turbot	465	355	1,476	1,422
Total prime fish	2,738	2,396	9,928	8,340
Cod	1,611	1,708	9,094	10,179
Haddock	1,059	930	5,276	5,378
Hake	257	327	1,320	1,469
Herrings	58	29	582	392
Ling	841	643	4,188	3,074
Mackerel	32,064	46,153	32,259	49,193
Sprats	—	—	—	139
Whiting	325	431	2,544	2,389
All other, except shell fish	1,825	3,088	7,232	10,060
Total	40,778	55,705	72,373	91,053
Shell fish:—				
Crabs	263	318	323	360
Lobsters	440	476	999	931
Oysters	685	236	1,091	789
Other shell fish	190	125	734	519
Total	1,578	1,154	3,147	2,599
Total value of fish landed	42,356	56,859	75,520	93,652

Note.—The above figures are subject to correction in the Annual Returns. The values given are the actual values returned by the local officers at each place.

X.—Cotton Returns.—April 1892.

Return of the Number of Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported, Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns, and Returned to Ports during the Month and Four Months ended 30th April 1892, compared with the corresponding Periods of the Year 1891.

—	Month of April		Four Months ended April	
	1892.	1891.	1892.	1891.
	Imports.			
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American	240,470	265,713	1,358,908	1,453,401
Brazilian	2,044	5,033	28,085	58,738
East Indian	15,133	32,782	40,731	76,519
Egyptian	21,210	12,290	153,429	128,233
Miscellaneous	7,278	5,191	29,663	32,051
Total	286,135	321,009	1,610,816	1,748,942
	Exports.			
American	18,830	8,782	80,652	57,147
Brazilian	—	40	693	155
East Indian	8,836	11,138	26,988	57,208
Egyptian	4,980	2,359	16,727	7,152
Miscellaneous	914	1,566	2,129	9,100
Total	33,560	23,885	127,189	130,762
	Forwarded from Ports to Inland Towns.			
American	167,751	226,125	947,019	1,029,767
Brazilian	3,323	7,341	17,037	49,964
East Indian	7,987	14,612	21,158	53,072
Egyptian	24,799	22,632	109,989	101,628
Miscellaneous	8,082	10,995	35,120	48,246
Total	209,942	281,705	1,130,323	1,282,677
	Forwarded from Inland Towns to Ports.			
American	406	308	707	1,264
Brazilian	—	19	5	54
East Indian	8	7	28	30
Egyptian	—	—	1	156
Miscellaneous	11	21	296	386
Total	425	355	1,037	1,890

XI.—Periodical Returns of Imports and Exports for Foreign Countries.

Statement of the Imports and Exports into and from the under-mentioned Countries in the latest Month for which Returns have been received, with Aggregates for the Period of the Year, including such latest Month.

Note.—Rouble = 2*s.*; Franc = $9\frac{6}{10}$*d.*; Milreis = 4*s.* 6*d.*; Lire = $9\frac{6}{10}$*d.*; Drachme = $9\frac{6}{10}$*d.*; Lei = $9\frac{6}{10}$*d.*; Dollar = 4*s.* 2*d.*

I.—Imports.

Name of Country.	Latest Month.	Value for the Month.		Aggregate for Period of the Year, including latest Month.	
		1891.	*1890.*	1891.	*1890.*
Russia in Europe	Nov.	Roubles 26,577,000	*27,306,000*	321,013,000	*334,366,000*
France	Mar.	(1892) Frs. 466,757,000	*(1891) 483,840,000*	(1892) 1,441,153,000	*(1891) 1,223,468,000*
Portugal	Dec.	(1891) Milreis 3,476,000	*(1890) 3,600,000*	(1891) 39,530,000	*(1890) 44,305,000*
Italy	Mar.	(1892) Lire 91,493,000	*(1891) 99,467,000*	(1892) 247,995,000	*(1891) 270,107,000*
Greece	Oct.	(1891) Drchms. 15,012,000	*(1890) 12,216,000*	(1891) 106,655,000	*(1890) 92,455,000*
	Nov.	„ 14,057,000	*13,837,000*	120,712,000	*106,292,000*
Roumania	Nov.	Lei 29,257,000	—	413,426,000	—
United States	Feb.	(1892) Dollars 65,382,000	*(1891) 65,980,000*	(1892) 128,102,000	*(1891) 128,280,000*
	Mar.	„ 86,549,000	*77,635,000*	214,653,000	*205,915,000*
British India*	Feb.	Rupees 5,44,07,974	*4,83,12,676*	60,69,36,543	*63,25,62,669*

II.—Exports.

Name of Country.	Latest Month.	Value for the Month.		Aggregate for Period of the Year, including latest Month.	
		1891.	*1890.*	1891.	*1890.*
Russia in Europe	Nov.	(1891) Roubles 56,901,000	*64,495,000*	(1891) 669,146,000	*642,335,000*
France	Mar.	(1892) Frs. 293,213,000	*(1891) 346,573,000*	(1892) 794,198,000	*(1891) 834,930,000*
Portugal	Dec.	(1891) Milreis 2,186,000	*(1890) 1,902,000*	(1891) 21,378,000	*(1890) 21,539,000*
Italy	Mar.	(1892) Lire 77,792,000	*(1891) 76,666,000*	(1892) 221,106,000	*(1891) 195,163,000*
Greece	Oct.	(1891) Drchms. 10,322,000	*(1890) 10,580,000*	(1891) 88,481,000	*(1890) 83,299,000*
	Nov.	„ 8,182,000	*7,298,000*	89,143,000	*90,597,000*
Roumania	Nov.	Lei 31,341,000	—	261,330,000	—
United States	Feb.	(1892) Dollars 86,638,000	*(1891) 74,876,000*	(1892) 186,776,000	*(1891) 157,506,000*
	Mar.	„ 81,819,000	*76,314,000*	268,595,000	*232,821,000*
British India*	Feb.	Rupees 10,50,42,748	*[8,93,73,828*	96,99,96,778	*89,64,61,973*

The above figures are subject to revision in the Annual Returns.

Note.—The figures are those of the "special" imports and exports, except in the case of Roumania, the United States, and British India, where the figures are "general." "Special" means, in the case of imports, imports for home consumption, in the case of exports, exports of domestic produce and manufacture only.

* The aggregate figures are for the financial year commencing 1st April.

XII.—Foreign Trade of India.

Imports and Exports into and from British India.

	Imports from Foreign Countries.		Exports to Foreign Countries.*	
	Eleven Months ended February		Eleven Months ended February	
	1891-2.	1890-1.	1891-2.	1890-1.
	R.	R.	R.	R.
I.—Animals—living	28,44,439	29,45,474	9,02,468	11,28,187
II.—Articles of food and drink	7,49,70,120	7,95,08,900	34,05,05,289	24,57,01,044
III.—Metals and manufactures of—				
A.—Hardware and cutlery (including plated-ware)	1,13,30,853	1,08,23,930	1,01,902	88,980
B.—Metals	5,07,25,486	5,11,39,897	5,86,637	4,50,293
C.—Machinery and mill-work	1,93,98,275	1,90,12,414	1,246	6,052
D.—Railway plant and rolling-stock (other than Government stores)	1,43,58,690	1,90,38,386	—	—
IV.—Chemicals, drugs, medicines and narcotics, and dyeing and tanning materials	1,40,66,265	1,29,57,544	12,82,23,799	12,38,25,191
V.—Oils	2,37,95,982	2,33,37,347	54,01,583	49,26,456
VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles	3,45,79,654	3,73,50,422	32,35,35,333	34,95,86,743
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured—				
A.—Yarns and textile fabrics	29,46,12,136	31,46,45,131	9,02,60,503	9,59,48,374
B.—Apparel	1,29,30,940	1,24,82,301	10,44,804	9,06,045
C.—Other articles manufactured	5,33,23,703	4,93,17,243	3,90,00,718	3,57,62,945
Total	60,69,36,543	63,25,52,769	92,95,64,282	85,42,35,340

* Exports of Indian Produce and Manufacture only.

LIST OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR REPORTS

Annual Series.

Reports of the Annual Series, 1892, have been issued from Her Majesty's Diplomatic and Consular Officers at the following places, and may be obtained from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C., &c.

No.	Place.	Price.	No.	Place.	Price.
974	Guatemala	1*d.*	1004	Bordeaux	2½*d.*
975	Munich	2*d.*	1005	The Hague	1½*d.*
976	Meshed	1½*d.*	1006	Paraguay	1½*d.*
977	Para	½*d.*	1007	Constantinople	1½*d.*
978	Florence	1*d.*	1008	Rome	1*d.*
979	The Hague	1½*d.*	1009	Mozambique	1*d.*
980	Patras	1*d.*	1010	Wênchow	1*d.*
981	Paris	1½*d.*	1011	Mogador	2½*d.*
982	Zanzibar	2½*d.*	1012	Amoy	1*d.*
983	Buenos Ayres	½*d.*	1013	Kiukiang	1*d.*
984	Copenhagen	1*d.*	1014	Stettin	1½*d.*
985	Stuttgart	1*d.*	1015	Boston	1*d.*
986	New Orleans	1½*d.*	1016	Callao	1*d.*
987	New Orleans	10*d.*	1017	Aleppo	1*d.*
988	Suakin	½*d.*	1018	Santos	2½*d.*
989	Galveston	1½*d.*	1019	Piræus	1*d.*
990	Berlin	1*d.*	1020	Mogador	1*d.*
991	Zanzibar	1½*d.*	1021	Adrianople	½*d.*
992	Guayaquil	1*d.*	1022	Tripoli	1*d.*
993	Tonga	1*d.*	1023	Jerusalem	1*d.*
994	New Orleans	1*d.*	1024	Odessa	6*d.*
995	Mozambique	1½*d.*	1025	Genoa	½*d.*
996	Galatz	1½*d.*	1026	Kiungchow	1*d.*
997	Nantes	1½*d.*	1027	Batoum	4½*d.*
998	Algiers	1*d.*	1028	Buenos Ayres	1*d.*
999	Havre	2½*d.*	1029	Batavia	1*d.*
1000	Buenos Ayres	6*d.*	1030	Santo Domingo	½*d.*
1001	Baltimore	1½*d.*	1031	San José	1*d.*
1002	Taganrog	1*d.*	1032	Manila	1½*d.*
1003	Riga	2*d.*			

List of Diplomatic and Consular Reports—*cont.*

The following Reports from Her Majesty's Representatives abroad on subjects of general and commercial interest have also been issued, and may be obtained from the above-mentioned sources:—

No.	——	Price.
216	*Argentine Republic.*—Report on Emigration to Argentine Republic and Demand for Labour, 1891	3*d.*
217	*Russia.*—Report on the Condition of Labour in Russia	1½*d.*
218	*Argentine Republic.*—Report on the Salt Industries of the Argentine Republic	½*d.*
219	*Austria-Hungary.*—Report on the Timber Trade of Bosnia and the Herzegovina	1½*d.*
220	*Netherlands.*—Report on the Evidence taken at Rotterdam and Amsterdam by the Dutch Labour Commission	1½*d.*
221	*Netherlands.*—Report on Legislation for Protection of Women and Young Children employed in Factories, &c.	1*d.*
222	*Tunis.*—Report on Projected Extension of the Tunisian Railway System	½*d.*
223	*Bulgaria.*—Translation of New Law on Mines	1*d.*
224	*Netherlands.*—Report on the Effects of the Law of 1889 for the Protection of Women and Children engaged in Factory and other Work	2*d.*
225	*Egypt.*—Report on the Aloe Fibre Industry of Somali Land	½*d.*
226	*Roumania.*—Report on Roumanian Trade, Agriculture, and Danube Navigation from 1881—1890	1*d.*
227	*Denmark.*—Statistics of the Town of Copenhagen	½*d.*
228	*Austria-Hungary.*—Report on Vine Culture in Bosnia and the Herzogovina	½*d.*
229	*Belgium.*—Report on the History and Progress of Telephonic Enterprise in Belgium	1*d.*
230	*Denmark.*—Further Report on the Progress of the Works of the Free Port of Copenhagen	½*d.*

LIST OF COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS.

The following Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued by the Colonial Office, and may be purchased from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, E.C.:—

Miscellaneous Series.

No.	Colony.	Year.
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–89
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	,,
106	British Guiana	,,
107	Barbados	,,
108	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
109	Western Australia	,,
110	Gold Coast (Agricultural)	1890
111	Labuan	1889
112	Jamaica	,,
113	Falkland Islands	,,
114	Basutoland	1889–90
115	Sierra Leone	1889
116	Fiji	,,
117	Hong Kong	,,
118	St. Helena	,,

LIST OF COLONIAL OFFICE REPORTS—*cont.*

NEW SERIES OF COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

1	British Honduras	1889
2	Mauritius	"
3	British Bechuanaland	1889–90
4	Victoria	1889
5	Newfoundland	"
6	British New Guinea	1889–90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	"
9	Leeward Islands	1889
10	St. Lucia	1890
11	Bahamas	"
12	Turks and Caicos Island	"
13	Gibraltar	"
14	Zululand	"
15	Sierra Leone	"
16	Barbados	"
17	Falkland Islands	"
18	Labuan	"
19	British Honduras	"
20	Basutoland	1890–91
21	Trinidad and Tobago	1890
22	Leeward Islands	"
23	Grenada	"
24	Straits Settlements	"
25	British Guiana	"
26	St. Helena	"
27	Mauritius	"
28	Gambia	"
29	Hong Kong	"
30	Ceylon	1889
31	Lagos	"
32	Lagos	1890
33	Ceylon	"
34	Newfoundland	"
35	Jamaica	1889–91
36	Victoria	1890